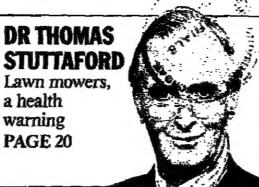
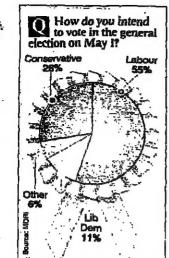


BEST FOR **BOOKS** The stories of Rosanne Cash Michael Hofmann on The School Bag **PAGES 38,43**





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Sleaze takes its toll on Tories as Labour stretches lead

By Peter Riddell

THE Tories have lost further public support in the sleaze-dominated first fortnight of the election campaign. The latest MORI poll for The Times confirms Labour's commanding lead on the day it launches its

The poll, undertaken on Tuesday, undermines Tory hopes that the party might have started to narrow the huge Labour lead. Labour now stands at 55 per cent, up from 50 per cent in the last poll a week ago, with the Tories on 28 per cent, down a point since before Easter. The

Liberal Democrats have lost their early campaign gain and fallen three points to II per cent, while support for the Referendum Party has dipped. It was put at 3 per cent before Easter and rounded up to 2 per cent this week.

But these week-to-week fluctua tions and the widening in the Labour lead from 21 to 27 points matter less than the absence of any sign of a Tory recovery. The party's rating is the lowest since last October. Ahead of its manifesto launch yesterday, the party was "sleaze" allegations

election was announced. By contrast. Labour has enjoyed a largely trouble-free campaign so far, and even its slight wobble over new rights for trade unions was overshadowed by Tory difficulties, Labour's rating is back to its high level of January.

The Liberal Democrat rating is back to its low pre-campaign levels as the party has fought to gain public and media attention and has

risked being squeezed by Labour. The MORI poll is in marked contrast to the ICM poll in The Guardian yesterday which suggested that Labour support was falling

and Tory support rising. The main reason for the contrast is that ICM puts Labour ten points lower and the Liberal Democrats seven points higher than MORI. Movements between Labour and the Liberal Democrats have accounted for much of the volatility in the polls in recent weeks. But there have been much smaller variations in the Tory rating, which has been two or three points either side of 30 per cent for

the past 18 months. Moreover. Labour's big lead in voting intentions is underpinned by the big advantage which Tony Blair enjoys over John Major as to who

would make the most capable Prime the doubt over the recession five Minister. Labour also enjoys a more favourable image than the Tories on being moderate, having the best policies, and having the best team of leaders. This is in contrast with the 1992 election when Labour's poll lead in the campaign was contra-dicted by Mr Major's consistent lead over Neil Kinnock as a leader.

The Tory weakness in the polls is despite the strength of the economy and a recovery in optimism, the "feelgood" factor, to levels seen before the Conservatives' last three victories. Whereas Mr Major and the Tories were given the benefit of years ago, they are now not being given much thanks for the recovery

and the fall in unemployment.

It is too early to translate these poll figures into precise estimates of numbers of seats, but if Labour sustains a lead even into double figures, it will be heading for a landslide victory.

MORI interviewed 1,118 adults at

84 sampling points on a face-to-face basis on April 1. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote to per cent), are undecided (12 per cent) or who refused to say (4 per cent).

would not expect to succeed in

Mr Blair will say that the

16,000-word document is real-

istic and "uncompromisingly

New Labour". It will reaffirm

the party's commitment to a

windfall tax and a pledge not

to increase either the top or

basic rates of income tax over

the next five years. In addition

it will confirm Labour's aim to

introduce a 10p starting rate of

tax, although no timetable will

be given. Mr Blair will emphasise

that it has been a long haul to

change his party and its

policies in the three years since

he became leader and that he

is not promising a revolution

Labour Party. We will

means knowing where we

want to go, being clear head-

ed, telling the truth, making

tough choices, insisting that

all parts of the public sector

live within their means, taking

on vested interests, standing

up to unreasonable demands

from any quarter, and being

prepared to give a moral lead

where government has re-sponsibilities it should not

"We have modernised the

but a fresh start.

modernise Britain.

future." one aide said.

Blair to unveil

his 'contract

with Britain'

By JILL SHERMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR will today un-

veil a personal ten-point con-

tract with Britain, promising

voters that he will not "dazzle

for 100 days and then

Launching a "bold but real-

istic programme" for govern-ment, the Labour leader will

put at the top of his "personal bond of trust with the people"

a promise to increase the

share of national income spent

on education and to cut the

amount spent on welfare as

more people get jobs. Other measures include promises to

help the young employed, to

build strong families and

strong communities and to

Mr Blair has told close

colleagues that he will not

deserve a second term if he

fails to keep his manifesto

promises. The document is an

unashamed attempt to claim

the one-nation mantle from

Aides said Mr Blair had

written the bulk of the docu-

ment himself and there was nothing in it to which he was

not personally committed.

"He would be unable to face

the British public if he could

not achieve this in the next five

years. If he failed in this he

"clean up politics".

the Tories.

disappoint".

Major offers 'best place in the world'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

6 The Prime Minister had

slipped yesterday

into his Zen mode

of delivery - we

call it his Mystic Meg

voice >

6 The plan to give non-

working spauses

a tax break has hidden

Election reports

Leading article...

William Rees-Mogg ...

stings 🤊

The Tory Manifesto in full

Four-page pullout, Section 2

from poorer families, turning

one in five schools into special-

ist centres of excellence and

giving all schools more

indpendence from local au-

thorities. The manifesto also

promises moves to widen

share ownership and to priva-

tise the London Underground

and the parcels arm of the Post

In addition, there were the previously trailed schemes to

allow individuals to build up a

lifetime pension "pot", a long-term scheme to help the elder-

ly to afford nursing care without losing their life's sav-

ings and a guarantee of yearby-year increases in health

service resources. Councils will be required to sell homes

that have been empty for more than a year and the party

promises to raise some £25 billion in private investment to

On law and order, the

manifesto returns to the tough

ard's crime Bill through be-

Parliament was sus-

spruce up housing estates.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 8

Matthew Parris, page 14

JOHN MAJOR offered support for marriage, the family, the elderly and children yes-terday when he unveiled a Conservative ejection manifesto dedicated to making Britain the best place in the world to

He promised £1.2 billion tax concessions for married couples when either the husband or wife stays at home to look after children or dependent relatives.

And he outlined measures to guarantee standards in schools, tackle crime and clean up housing estates in a package aimed at making haves of the have-nots, to bring wealth and welfare hand-in-hand".

The manifesto was set against the backcloth of a booming Britain and with the country able to look forward to opportunities undreamt of a few years ago, the next government would inherit a golden bequest, Mr Major

The new tax plan would allow the spouse who stayed at home to transfer their personal allowance to the one at work, giving almost two million families an extra £900 a year. But it would not apply to unmarried couples or one-parent families. Although there was no attempt to moralise in the manifesto, Mr Major said: "We are in favour of marriage and we are in favour of the family."

But Mr Major was anacked by Labour for making fincosted pledges on cuts without the faintest idea of how to pay for them." And the Prime Minister admitted that is promises were dependent on the performance of the economy. The tax allowances change would probably come in 1998-99.

Other keynote proposals were pledges to give thou-sands of carers looking after sick or elderly relatives a sanual week's break, a widening of the assisted places scheme to help more children

mandatory sentences for repeat offenders that were lost in the rush to get Michael How-

MANIFESTO THE MAIN POINTS

The Times on the Internel http://www.the-times.co.uk



☐ A £1.2 billion plan allowing non-working parent or carer to transfer personal tax allowance to working partner. ☐ Standard income tax rate to be cut to 20p in five years. ☐ Public given right to sue

trial action. ☐ Privatisation Parcelforce, London Underground and National Air Traffic Service.

unions over excessive indus-

☐ Basic Pension Plus scheme allowing young people to build up private pension plan. Long-term care insurance scheme to protect assets against nursing care costs. Reductions in inheritance

pended two weeks ago. And it promises speedier punish-ment for juvenile offenders, a ban on rape defendants questioning victims in court, and new measures to deal with City fraud. Mr Major's tax proposals

came under swift attack from Labour, with spokesmen pointing out that ministers had been unable to say where the £1.2 billion would come from. Mr Major made plain that it would be his top priority ahead of getting the basic rate down to 20p and abolishing capital taxes. But Kenneth Clarke was not shifting from his priorities of cutting the budget deficit before cutting taxes.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that after 22 tax increases in the last Parliament, the centrepiece of Mr Major's manifesto "appears to be yet another set of costly. risky, unfair tax changes". He added: "They're at it again, flagging up uncosted promises on tax without the faintest idea of how to pay for them. Mr Major has made a commitment and he has not the slightest clue as to how it is going to be financed beyond the vague generalities."

The Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown attacked the manifesto as being a document for the few, not the many" described its proposals as "another auction of fantasy promises, sometime, never tax

Mr Major, however, defended his 56-page document You Can Only Be Sure with the Conservatives as "the boldest and most far-reaching any party has published since

Using Labour's argument that it was time for change, he said: "It is time for change: time for a change to the next phase of Conservative prosperity that will give everyone - no matter who they are. where they live - more choice and more control over their

and capital gains tax.

for offenders.

service spending.

Automatic life sentence for

those convicted of second

violent or sexual offence. Sev-

en-year sentences for repeat

burglars. Electronic tagging

Annual increases in health

☐ Extension of selection in

schools. National education

targets, individual school per-

formance targets and action

to tackle underperforming

schools and education au-

thorities. More specialist

□ Nationwide introduction

of workfare-style scheme to

help long-term unemployed.



Flanagan, the Conservative's Chicken Man: "It is not inside and hard to breathe"

Chicken: the first interview

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

MUSICIAN Noel Flanagan, clad as a six-foot yellow chicken, will take centre stage loday in the Tories' new offensive against Tony Blair. Mr Flanagan, 39, has been chosen as the man to follow the Labour leader around the country to try to good him into agreeing to appear in a tele-vised debate with John

He agreed to the part after being approached by a friend at Central Office over the weekend. His previous experience includes playing a segment of a caterpillar at primary school and the front part of a Si Bernard's dog to promote a hospital radio

The Tories jealously guarded access to their latest campaign weapon, dreamt up after Mr Major accused the Labour leader of being "a chicken" by refusing to agree to a television debate. Spin doctors began practising their dark arts, restricting picture access to the chicken to a favoured newspaper as a prize exclusive in advance of today's photocall. "We must not dilute the impact of the official unveiling," a Tory

Despite the secrecy, The Times managed to track down John Major's feathered friend after he made a private morale-boosting tour of Con-servative headquarters yester-

Mr Flanagan said the role did present him with some ethical problems. "I slope in and out of vegetarianism. I don't believe in the exploitation of animals and object to battery chickens. I hope this one is free range. It is hot inside and hard to breathe." However, market forces

dictated his decision to accept

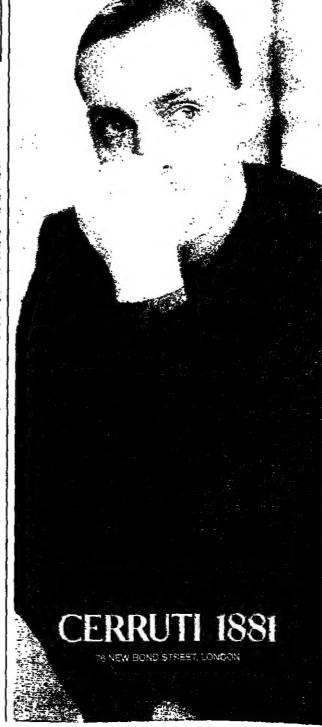


the 28-day assignment. "I am not doing this because I love the Tory Party but because I need the money. A musician's life is a precarious one," he

He was also surprised to be described by Conservative Central Office as a floating voter. "You can only be a floating voter if you vote. And I never do. I have never voted Conservative in my life. Nor do I intend to. Nor am I going to vote Labour. I am not going to vote for any of them." he

Mr. Flanagan could not discuss his salary, having signed a confidentiality clause with Central Office. But Equity rates of pay for similar work at holiday camps would pocket Mr Flanagan about E50 a day. Alastair Campbell. Tony

Blair's press secretary, was not perturbed by the prospect of being shadowed by Mr Flanagan, who is a karate expert. He sent accreditation forms to Central Office to ensure he can attend their press conferences. Mr Campbell writes: "He will of course be entitled to ask questions but this being the Labour Continued on page 2. col 3



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Mother dies on ski trip while helping injured son

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A BRITISH woman died after she fell 200ft to her death on a French mountain as she tried to rescue her son, who had been seriously injured in a skiing accident.

Anne Conway, 50, was killed as she attempted to reach her 24-year-old son, who had fallen and broken his leg while skiing off-piste in the Alps near the Swiss-French border. French police said it appeared that Mrs Conway, an accomplished skier. had slipped 200ft down the side of a

family friend yesterday to break the news to neighbours in the Northumberland hamlet of Whittington, near Hexham, where the family had lived

for the past two years.

Mrs Conway drove out to Geneva. over a week ago in the family's Mercedes. She was accompanied by her sons, who enjoyed a few days' skiing on the French side of the Alps. in Chatel. The resort is only a short drive from the family's villa on the

ravine after her son, Andrew, had got into difficulties outskirts of Geneva. The group was joined last Thursday by Mrs Con-Her other son, Jonathan, 27, rang a way's husband, Mike, SB, managing director of the Tyneside engineering

firm Michell Bearings.

Although the family had only been in the North East for a short time. they were much involved in village life and both parents were committee members at Matten Golf Club, a

short distance from their home. Les Rainey, a friend of the Con-ways, said: "You couldn't wish to meet a nicer family. They are very much part of the community. We

friends who had dinner at each other's houses and socialised together. I took a call from Jonathan this morning telling me the terrible news and I have had to go and break it to everyone else. Our thoughts are all with the family at this time."

Dawn Harrison, 38, clubhouse manager at the Matfen Golf Club, said: "Anne was liked by everyone. The club has been going three years and she has given me so much help to get it off the ground. She was always helping to organise social events and

so on. Jonathan even helped out behind the bar last summer when we were busy. Everyone here is very shocked. I had to break the news to members today and there were a lot of very sad people among them."

The family had moved to the North East from their home in Leigh, near Tonbridge, Kent, when Mr Conway was appointed to Michells. Linda Gazzard, his secretary, said yesterday: "We are in touch with the family and awaiting further news but obviously everyone here is very upset by what has happened."

Jailers' union talks of prison ship 'mutiny'

Prison officers threatened last night to refuse to work on the prison ship Weare in a dispute over staffing levels and safety measures. The move came after leaders of the Prison Officers' Association visited the vessel moored in Portland harbour near Weymouth, Dorset.

A maximum of 500 low-risk prisoners are to be held on board the £3.5 million vessel which the Prison Service has bought to provide emergency accommodation to deal with a rapidly rising jail population. The service plans to have about 120 staff on the ship and some officers are being offered removal packages of between £28,000 and £30,000 to relocate from northern England to the Dorset coast.

Borders women can ride

Peace has broken out between the warring men and women of Hawick following a decision to lift the ban on lady riders at the town's annual summer Common Riding. The ninemonth battle, which divided the Borders town, splitting families and destroying friendships, now appears to be over after a compromise was announced yesterday allowing women to take part in two of the 16 rides, although not in the

Plea over nurses rejected

The brother of Yvonne Gilford, the Australian nurse murdered in Saudi Arabia, has dismissed a plea that he waive the death penalty should the British nurses accused of killing her be found guilty. Salah al-Hejailan, their defence lawyer, had asked Frank Gilford, of South Australia, to reconsider his decision to let the law take its course. Lucille McLauchlan, from Dundee, and Deborah Parry, of Alton, Hampshire, face public beheading if convicted.

Old age home inquiry

Detectives will interview a woman aged 70 about the death of a 94-year-old after a dispute at a council old people's home. Mary Hall suffered a fractured hip when pushed to the floor of the television room at the Fir Trees residential home in Dukinfield, Greater Manchester. She was rushed to Tameside General Hospital but died later. Detective Superintendent Bernard Postles said yesterday: "We will have to interview staff and women involved in the incident."

Former comedian jailed

The former television comedian Gerry Thomas was jailed for nine years yesterday for firearms offences. Thomas, 65, a registered part-time firearms dealer, was caught in a police trap when he agreed to sell shotguns and pistols to a criminal, Gloucester Crown Court heard. He admitted possessing and selling firearms and ammunition illegally. The defence cited praise from the boxer John Stracey and the comedian Stan Boardman for Thomas's work for charity.

Inquest jury is warned

An inquest jury was warned that it would be breaking the law if it tried to blame the deaths of three oil rig workers at Amer's Howdon yard, on the Tyne, on negligence. But the coroner indicated he thought legal proceedings could follow.
The jury-returned verdicts of accidental death on Shaun-McAlindon, 41, from Jarrow. Steve Welford, 38, from Whitley Bay, and Ian Hamilton, 32, from Hebburg.

Day of crime for writer

Marnie Inskip, a New York crime writer, became a real-life victim for the first time when a pickpocket tried to steal her purse on the Underground and then fled along the electrified tracks. The power was cut as a policeman gave chase, a youth was later overpowered. Miss Inskip said: "I have been living in New York for many years and never been robbed or mugged . . . it was all quite dramatic."

Catherine Laylle

Catherine Laylle asks us to make clear that, notwithstanding her correctly reported comments in an article on April 1 that the thought had

reabduct her children from Germany, and has always Charity

after fo

milked in

, Batman k

Twin victims 'were wheeled through streets in trolley'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE murderer of identical twin brothers wheeled their bodies through the streets in a shopping trolley and dumped them in a canal, the Old Bailey was told yesterday. Later, when a friend mentioned the men. David Dillon, 38, was alleged to have said they "had

gone for a long swim". He also told another man that he had "turned the twins over" and dropped a heavy

of them. Mr Dillon, an unemployed decorator from Islington, north London, denies the murders of Christopher and Anthony Langford, 38, last spring. The court was told that the brothers had been born in the Bedfordshire area but arrived in London by 1991 and

turned into "street people".

Timothy Langdale, QC, for the prosecution, said that, for

Hartiepool General Hospital

where he was put on an

... It-is-understood that the

day that he would not recover

and agreed for the machine to

be disconnected. A post-

mortem examination was car-

ried out last night and the

the independent Police Com-

plaints Authority. Its inquiry

will centre on whether the boy

was properly checked by sta-tion staff, whether he should

have been seen by a doctor

and whether his parents were

notified that he had been

The death was referred to

results were expected today.

cartwheel onto the head of one the next five years, they lived rough in the Islington area and much of their lives involved drinking, sometimes funded by begging. He said that there was no motive for

> Mr Dillon, who had a council flat, was also a heavy drinker. The twins would sometimes be out with him or in the flat.

> In February last year Islington police received an anony-mous note claiming that the Langfords had been killed in Mr Dillon's flat. They searched the flat but found no evidence. They did notice that some redecorating had been

A month later Christopher Langiord's body was discovered floating in Regent's Canal. A pathologist thought he had drowned and said that fractures to the skull, ribs and a leg were caused by a fall. But the body of his brother, Anthony, then surfaced 50 yards away in the canal, wrapped in



Accused: David Dillon, who has denied the murder of the twin brothers

blanket. He was found to have been beaten and a new post-mortem examination on Christopher concluded that he

had also been beaten. Mr Langdale told the jury that, after the discovery of the bodies, a man called Lawrence Walsh went to see police. He told them of a conversation with Mr Dillon in February before the bodies had been

Mr Dillon confided in him

that he had killed the Langfords and said that he kept the bodies in his flat for several days, although other people were there. The bodies were then dumped in the

canal using a trolley.

A man called Michael Henessey told police that he had met Mr Dillon in a cafe and said that he was fearful of seeing the twins because of a row over drink. Mr Dillon said he did not need to worry

about them because they had gone for a "swim". Mr Langdale told the court that it was a remark of

considerable significance. It was made before the bodies Mr Langdale also told the jury that despite Mr Dillon's intensive efforts to clean his

flat police found blood traces which could be linked to his

The case continues

Boy, 15, dies after | Spice Girl power | Governor speaks hanging in cell

AN · INQUIRY has been artificial breathing machine. launched after the death yeshanging in a police cell only hours after his arrest.

The boy, aged 15, was found unconscious on Monday afternoon, suspended by a noose made from the waist cord of his tracksuit trousers. The other end had been attached to the bars of his cell at Hartlepool police station, on Teesside. He had been arrested that day in connection with a

Custody officers cut him down and attempted resuscitation but were unable to adds up to £50m

By Stephen Farrell

THE Spice Girls, unknown a year ago, are now multimillionaires and will sell their year, but Robert Sandall, the next week.

After the launch of the quintet's official book Girl Power even their record company, Virgin, admitted that it has been astonished by the scale of their success. Spice, the debut album, has sold 9.7 million copies worldwide — 2.5 million in Britain — and sales are running at 400,000 a

They have also sold 14 million singles. Industry estimates last month put their earnings at more than £2 mil-

lion each. Last night Virgin played down suggestions that they would be worth £10 million each by the end of the said: "In the end they will almost certainly be worth more than that, but no one can predict how big they will

be, nor how long it will last." As performers, Mel B. Mel C. Geri, Victoria and Emma share 14 to 20 per cent of the dealer price for each record.
They are also credited as joint songwriters — with two songwriting teams and a lyricist earning them and their publishers 8.5 per cent of the wholesale price. Pepsi is negotiating a sponsorship. up for Darrens BY DAVID CHARTER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE teacher who told a union conference-that-his-school's -rebuked yesterday by

Nigel Turner, a geography teacher, said at the conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers on Tuesday that no amount of money or inspirational teaching would help some inner-city children to reach national norms of

chairman of governors.

Leon Unczur, chairman of the governors at William Crane Comprehensive School

in Nottingham, said: "His comments were not well thought out. They are unfair to parents, unfair to fellow staff -and unfair-to-young people. slot young people into a hole they do not belong in."

Mr Turner made his re-marks while arguing for an overhaul of the school inspection system. His school, where 8 per cent of pupils achieved five GCSEs at grades A to C, is to be inspected in two

Mr Unczur said: "We are coming close to Ofsted and Mr Turner is a teacher who is under a tremendous amount of stress. I don't think he really

Tories' Chicken Man tactics

Continued from page 1 Party he will not be paid to ask them. I enclose a brown envelope in which you can return the form."

Dressing up in a chicken suit, or some other pertinent fancy dress, has become the Nineties equivalent of heckling in American elections (lan Brodie writes from Washing-

In 1992, George Bush was trailed at many campaign appearances by Chicken Man, Chicken George as some called him. The purpose was to attract widespread media attention and to ruffle the then President's feathers over his reluctance to debate with his rival for the White House, Bill

dress up as the Democrats'

Craig Livingstone, the helty former bar bouncer, whose reward was to become director of White House security. He resigned from that post last year after it came to light that he had improperly amassed as many as 900 FBI files, many relating to Republicans. Mr Livingstone described his work with Chicken Man as

"counter-events". The Democrats introduced a new mocking mascot for last year's election. Butt Man, dressed as a cigarette, began shadowing Bob Dole after his gaffe that tobacco was not necessarily addictive.

Democratic headquarters, claiming that Mr Dole was in the pocket of the tobacco industry, sent out instructions

to local committees on how to

As a result, Mr Dole was harassed by assorted Butt Man mutations all across the country until the joke wore

In Wisconsin, Republicans countered with Baloney Man, dressed up as a sausage and with the unsubtle message that Mr Clinton and the Democrats were talking just that, baloney. Baloney Man never took off nationally.

The man permutations had one insurmountable flaw. They could conceal a weapon inside the suit. For this reason, Secret Service bodyguards refused to let them approach the candidates. Indeed, the issue of security was usually given as a reason for hustling the fancy-dress intruders well out of camera range.

Payout for

A WOMAN left partly paralysed by an operation was awarded E100,000 damages by the Court of Session at

burgh Royal Infirmary.
Mrs Stewart sued Lothian negligent. Damages were awarded against the board.



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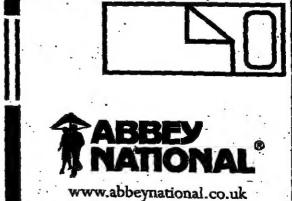
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quoting reference A492E/10.

stroke error

Edinburgh yesterday. Elleen Stewart, 52, of Edin burgh, suffered a stroke after an anaesthetist failed to carry out basic steps to check whether he had penetrated the correct vein. The mistake happened during an exploratory operation for a duodenal ulcer in September 1991 at Edin-

Health Board alleging medi-cal negligence. Lord Penrose ruled that the anaesthetist, a Dr Armstrong, who no longer works at the hospital, was



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Hope on display at the academy of broken hearts BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

HOPE and defiance were on display yesterday at the Royal Academy of Arts. Would-be entrants in the Summer Show were trying again despite

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years of rejection. Geniuses must suffer for their art and nothing, not even repeated exclusion from the world's largest open show, can discourage the determined artist from having another go at being discovered in their own lifetime.

On the first day for submitting works under glass. a queue formed outside Burlington House in Piccadilly. London, as about 2,000 items were delivered with the loving care of a mother taking her young child to nursery. Metre upon metre of bubble-wrap was unravelled in slow motion to prevent prized creations being damaged, although they were then to be stacked unceremoniously with hundreds of other submissions.

The artists insisted that they came in search of recognition and exposure, not fame. The show attracts about 125,000 visitors. About one in ten

applicants may make it past the selection comminee drawn from the RA Council. Yesterday was the sixth

attempt for David Walter, a self-taught London artist who gave up a mathematics professorship in the Far East to create delicate abstracts using computers fed with mathematical equations. He said: "It's like the lottery. You try and try again. It's a bit of excitement every year."
Olive Griffiths, whose sub-

mission included a portrait of a reclining cat, and Louise Smith, who entered a Somerset meadow, had each tried "at least" six times. Asked why they keep returning, they answered in unison: "Hope."

They visit the show each year to view the chosen few: When you see what was accepted, you think, how did mine get thrown out?" Ms Smith dismissed "cotton-wool trees" she saw last time. Critics described that show as ranging from real talent to mediocrity and worse.

Some people had travelled across Europe to enter. Antho-

health visitor had been so impressed by her talent that he decided to enter it for her. He said: "She is a very old lady, with an attractive face and a young mind. This makes her feel good." Antikka Buffrey-Powell. from Hereford, who took up painting only last October. brought along a vibrant semi-

ny Gregson drove from his

home in southwest France to

deliver a watercolour of a local

village and Christine de Rio, a

stage manager, travelled from Portugal with her Algarve

Hoping to be fourth-time lucky with a vibrant still-life,

Alina Karska, from Green-

ford, west London, said: "If

they hang my picture. I will be in seventh heaven." Ronald

Salmond, from Harrow, has

suffered rejection for ten

years, although he had suc-

cess before that: "I don't think

my style's changed," he said,

unwrapping his wood engrav-ing Boat Repairs, Topsham.

He will keep trying. First-timers included Eliza-

beth Harris, an octogenarian

who was too ill to deliver a

sensitive still-life herself. A

landscapes.

abstract image. She has devoted herself to caring for the terminally ill in hospices and decided to enter in memory of a friend who died shortly before exhibiting at the RA. Submissions for paintings and sculpture will begin later this month. Last year a total of

11,222 works were submitted by professional and amateur artists. There was space for Some of this year's entrants had a slightly downcast look, almost as if they knew in

their hearts that they would be collecting their works from a back office long before the Summer Show opens on But even that would put them in good company. Since

the annual show began in 1769, the names of the rejected artists include many who managed to overcome the Some, like Stanley Spencer

and John Constable, managed

to do rather well.



A photograph of Eric Clapton beside one of the two Bridget Riley paintings he is selling. The sale of 50 works next month could fetch £500,000

Eric Clapton to sell cream of his modern art collection

By Dalya Alberge

ERIC CLAPTON, the rock guitarist, is selling 50 of the works of art that have decorated his London home for the past five years. A collection that ranges from a drawing by Degas to an optical illusion painting by Bridget Riley is expected to fetch £500,000.

Clapton is a regular buyer in salerooms and is known to trust his eye, rather than relying on advisers or following trends. He will continue buying modern and contemporary art, but feels like a change.

Brett Gorvy, director of contemporary art at Christie's, which will sell the collection on May 29, said: "As with his music, Mr Clapton's taste is eclectic, highly personal and strongly rooted in tradition. It has been assembled by someone who has not been affected by the vagaries of fashion."

The paintings include a striking image by Serge Poliakoff, a leading French abstract painter of the 1950s, which is estimated to fetch £15,000. A 1974 abstract by Bridget Riley, a leading figure of the Optical Art

movement, carries an estimate of £40,000. The modern Italian painter Sandro Chia, a member of the transavanguardia movement that reinterpreted epic history painting, is also represented.

Clapton, who battled against drink and drugs in the 1970s, bought his home in Chelsea last year for just under El million. He refused to comment on the sale yesterday because he did not want to be disturbed in his studio, where he is recording an album to be released later this year. Last September he cancelled performances at the Albert Hall because he was reportedly

having difficulties" recording it. Pop stars have proved to be some of the most active collectors of art and antiques. Mick Jagger is known to have 19th-century works in a collection said to be worth up to £30 million and David Bowie's wide range of passions includes a collection of British art. The singer Bryan Ferry, a regular at art exhibitions, collects 20th-century British art, Paul McCartney owns Surrealist works and Dave Stewart collects Dali, Damien Hirst and Gilbert & George. Madonna has a mania for French

and Italian paintings of nude goddesses. It is said that she likes to admire them from the comfort of her white armchairs. Her rooms also overflow with antiques.
The painter Frida Kahlo, second

wife of the Mexican Diego Rivera, is a particular favourite. Madonna once said that if someone did not like Kahlo's painting, "then I know they can't be my friend". Elton John once had a voracious

appetite for Art Deco and Art Nouveau, but he sold his collection at Sotheby's in 1988, part of a £4.8 million sale that had a huge influence on the market. Boxes of bizarre speciacles competed with avant-garde furniture. He is said to have started again immediately in different areas: Russian art became a new-found love.

Art Nouveau and Art Deco seem to have a particularly draw for several collectors who made their names as entertainers, among them the actress Joan Collins and pop star Rod



Sandro Chia's Meditation. which is also to be sold

Stewart. One observer said that what epitomised those forms was stylishness. "In the entertainment business, image and stylishness have a value." Clapton was banned from driving for 14 days by magistrates at Guildford, Surrey, yesterday after he admitted speeding. Kay Bacci, for the prosecution, said that police caught nim driving his N-registered black Mercedes at an average speed of 101mph on the A3 Ripley bypass on February 18. Clapton, who had two previous speeding offences, was fined £300 and his licence was endorsed.

Charity to close after founder milked its funds

Many call, but few are chosen: David Walter among

hopefuls arriving at the Royal Academy yesterday

BY EMMA WILKINS drug users and homeless — in High Wycombe and the sur-

rounding area."

At its height, Dove Word had three hostels and a day-

care centre in High Wycombe.

Police were alerted to concerns

about its finances by the Rev

Paul Nicolson, who was chair-

A CHARITY for the homeless is being wound up after its founder and two other women milked its funds. All three were given suspended prison sentences yesterday after a court was told that the money went on foreign holidays and

beauty treatments. The Dove Word Ministry, a registered Christian charity in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, was originally supported by the millionaire philanthropist John Paul Getty and the Guinness Trust. John Mortimer, the playwright and barrister who lives near by, had been a patron.

The founder, Kim Gibson. 50, a former cabaret singer. Her daughter, Faith Light, and a voluntary worker, Julie Phillips, were convicted of conspiracy to steal. Aylesbury Crown Court was told that Mrs Gibson used money raised from donations to buy a Range Rover, two holidays to EuroDisney and a horse box. Judge John Slack decided to suspend Mrs Gibson's 18month sentence because of her previous good work for the charity. Her daughter was given a nine-month suspend-ed sentence and Ms Phillips was given a year suspended. The judge said: "No one can

doubt that the Dove Word Ministry started with the best of intentions and much hard Kim Gibson: was given work and benefited the a suspended sentence unfortunates - the alcoholics,

£20,000.

Mother tells how solvent abuse led to actor's suicide

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MOTHER described vesterday how solvent abuse drove a former star of the musical Oliver! to kill himself. Kuldip Visaria said she had watched addiction to solvents take hold of her son Ravi, 13, over the space of four weeks and turn him from a bright and communicative child into someone

man. Yesterday he said it was now being wound up. the family barely recognised. Mrs Gibson, a divorcée, had Ravi was found hanging been dedicated to the charity near his home in Kettering. in its early years, when she dispensed soup to the home-Northamptonshire, on Saturday. His mother said yesterless from the back of an old day: " He was a wonderful bus. Mr Nicholson said: "She boy, so bright and so intelligent. He was a brilliant actor. He was very religious too. He was one of the few people with the courage to go into the squats to help people."
Police said that it would used to meditate and read religious books. We were such

a close family.

Three to four weeks ago, he never be known how much money was taken, but that it changed completely. He was a different person. We didn't know him at all. He would could have been about come home late at night, up to 2.30 in the morning. His hands were dirty and his eyes were glazed.

> We found out from school that he had sniffed lighter fluid with a few of his friends before We asked him if he had been doing it again. He told us

"We couldn't talk to him.

not to be silly and said: 'I'm not stupid." Then we started finding lighters in his pockets. He said he hought them with his dinner money. We cleared all

the solvents out of the house,

but it didn't stop. We just couldn't get through to him. He didn't want to part of the family any more.

"He was such a perfect boy. That's what makes it so awful. We just can't understand it. He had so much to live for." Ravi, a child model, beat off

competition from hundreds of other young hopefuls to win a place in the 21-strong child cast of Oliver: at the London Palladium, where he played a workhouse boy, doing four shows a week during a tenweek run in 1995.

Along with his older sister. Ruby, he went to a stage school in Northampton once a week before moving to the Sylvia Young Theatre School in London. He studied full time at the Montagu School in

Sylvia Young, whose former students include the Spice Girl Emma Bunton, the television presenter Dani Behr and the actor Nick Berry, said yesterday: "This is a great shock. He was a very talented and intelligent youngster. I would just like to extend our sympathy to

the family."
A spokesman for Northamptonshire Police said: There are no suspicious circumstances. A report is being prepared for the coroner. An inquest has been opened and adjourned and a full hearing will be held at a later

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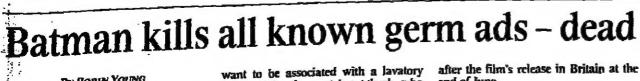
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and at weekends, call the Self Assessment Helpline on 0645 000 444 (calls are charged at local rates).

at the top of your tax return. Or in the evenings



BY ROBIN YOUNG

HOLY Germ Warfare! Batman has foiled a £2 million plot by the universal

destroyer Domestos. The brand's managers thought their product had a lot in common with Batman: both are committed to cleansing the world of insidious nasties. They hoped to use clips from the forthcoming Hollywood blockhuster Batman and Robin to make their point in a series of advertisements for British television.

However, George Clooney, the most recept in a long line of actors chosen to represent the caped crusader, does not

cleaner. The clean-cut heart-throb, who also stars in the clinically correct hospital drama ER. reckoned that his image would suffer if he were associated with sanitary disinfectant, even one that is Britain's biggest household cleaning brand, so a £2 million television advertising campaign was dead in the water. Mr Clooney, who took over the Batman role from Val Kilmer, who in turn succeeded Michael Keaton, has the final say on

advertising tie-ins. Warner Brothers, the film's maker, was not opposed to the advertisements. which would have been screened soon

end of June. Simon Thong. Domestos's brand man-

ager, said yesterday: "This was a brilliant idea that made sense. Batman and Domestos are both strong, non-compromising and awesome to the forces of

The deal between Warner Brothers and Lever Brothers, owners of the Domestos brand, was being mediated by the marketing company Triangle Communications. Triangle's chairman, Kevin Twittey, said: "I do not think Warners appreciated the strength of Domestos in the United Kingdom.

Britain trails Mexico in new health study

BRITAIN is among the unhealthiest places to live in western Europe and has also fallen behind Mexico, Taiwan and Israel, according to a new anaylsis of 27 countries.

The claim is made despite the fact that people born in Britain today are expected to live about eight years longer than those born in 1950. The new study uses 12 indicators of public health to judge each nation's physical well-being,

The Economist intelligence unit used figures published by international organisations to examine how nations performed in meeting a series of crucial health factors. These included immunisation rates. maternal mortality, HIV, infant mortality, and rates of cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease per head of population, as well as life

rather than relying solely league table of 27 nations, upon standard estimates of life expectancy. Sweden is the healthiest place in the world and has the best medical practice.

Israel is the second best place to avoid being ill. South Africa is the least healthy place, with India, Brazil and Russia in the places just above it.

Alexandra Wyke, editor of Healthcare International, a new publication covering medical care, said: "The idea was to get away from the life expectancy. On the resulting expectancy figure in order to

doctors and hospitals have little to do with the quality of The tables also show that healthcare in the United States appears to be at a low ebb. It is 13th in the league table, one place above Taiwan. The magazine blames this on the increasing numbers in America who no longer have any

which existed in the past.

The use of the new indices,

afford to pay for medical care.

The number believed to be uninsured is expected to escalate to 45 million, roughly 16 per cent of the population, by the turn of the century.

medical insurance and cannot

The countries surveyed, in order of healthiest to unhealthiest, were: Sweden, Israel. The Netherlands, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Australia, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Mexico, the United States, Taiwan, Britain, Poland, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, China. Hungary, Argentina, Turkey. Russia Brazil, India and South Africa.

Body and Mind, page 20



Sister Gregory preparing for evening prayers at the Bar Convent in York, which will soon be taking in paying guests

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TOURISTS in York are being offered a new experience -bed, breakfast and evening prayers.
Nuns at the Bar Convent

within the medieval city walls at Micklegate Bar, hope they can help the works of God by offering accommodation to paying guests. The 20 sisters from the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary plan to use the revenue for a conference and study centre based on the convent's library.

Visitors will be free to join the order at services in the chapel of the Grade I GeorConvent to offer bed and vespers

gian convent. They can also request access to the 5,000 volumes in the library.

One of the nuns, Sister Gregory, 86, said: "We are thrilled to bits. We are not a closed order and we love to bring people together and meet them. It will also give us a change to share the wonderful books, paintings and architecture we have here." Richard Masefield, busirunning the convent, said that opening its doors would help it

to pay its way.
Visitors will stay in eight single and seven twin rooms previously used for people on retreat. They have been mod-ernised with the help of £50,000 from the philanthropist John Paul Getty and a similar sum from the nuns' own order. Each floor has a

kitchen for self-catering visitors. The modernisation has also meant full central heating: for the nuns for the first time, as well as a much-improved supply of hot water.

Bed and breakfast costs £17.

per night per person; £25 buys: a packed lunch and an evening meal. The full English breakfast comes from the nuns' kitchen, but other food is prepared in a case attached to the convent's former museum.

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The nuns will continue with a daily routine that first began in 1686. Looking after the guests will be left to a housekeeper, estate manager and

Doctors call for pregnancy tests to cut HIV in babies

policy." Michael Levin, pro-lessor of paediatric medicine at St Mary's Hospital, Pad-dington, told New Scientist.

He chaired a recent meeting

100 babies a year are born to

known HIV-infected mothers

Statistics show that about

to discuss the issue.

By Nigel Hawkes SCIENCE EDITOR

BABIES in Britain are being needlessly infected with the virus that causes Aids because tests are not routinely offered to pregnant women, researchers have claimed.

If women are found to be infected by HIV, giving them the drug AZT during pregnancy can reduce the danger that they will pass the virus to their children. AZT reduces the risk of transmission from mother to baby from one in six to one in 20. In the United States and France pregnant vomen are routinely offered HIV tests, but this is not done

We have a hopeless testing

in Britain, but many are born to mothers who are infected but are unaware of it.

In inner-city areas the rate of HIV infection among mothers has risen sharply since 1990. Pregnant women in London are tested anonymously, to assess the spread of the infection, and it is impossible to identify the source of sample

Sam Walters, of St Mary's, says a policy of obliging with pregnant women should be considered. The highest proportion of HIV-infected mothers is among black Afri-can immigrants. They are not being targeted for testing. "We don't want to be seen as picking on certain racial groups," Dr Walters said, "but they're being discriminated against by not getting the advice and treatment they

doctors to discuss HIV-testing

☐ Scientists have developed a technique which allows a diagnosis of fatal meningitis strains within 30 minutes. Blood and urine samples are used, avoiding the need for lumbar punctures. Trials of the system have started in Britain and Ireland.

McGonagall takes the rap from new wave of admirers

By JOE JOSEPH

WE ALWAYS suspected rap music was awful. How awful? So awful that rap fans now think William McGonagall the man who got away with calling himself a poet before Scotland had a Trades De-scription Act — is a genius.

Rap performers are queueing to record his poems. American academics hail him as the world's first rapper. After a century of notoreity for giving verse a bad name. McGonagall is now being fêted as Snoop Doggy

Doggerel. at Western Michigan Univer-sity who has studied bad poets throughout the world, concludes that McGonagall is the best of the worst. Professor Cooney has particular praise for his "calypso-like disregard for rhythm".

At Chicago's North Park University, the English faculty thinks "McGonagall's appalling abuse of metre makes his poems quite suitable as rap lyrics. Do not be deceived by a merely casual or cursory examination of his poems. They are far, far worse than you can imagine." Santaphobia Inc, an American recording company, has made many Scottish jaws drop by releasing "The Wil-liam McGonagall Rapping Masterclass".

Unable to contain their adoration. McGonagall's new ad-Internet. McGonagall net sites have sprung up in Russia. Beautiful Railway Bridge of the Silv ry Tay! Alas, I am very sorry to say That ninety lives have been taken away

On the last Sabbath day of Which will be remembered for a very long time.

The Tay Bridge Disaster

Japan, Romania, Canada and the United:States, all devoted

flabbergasted by his sudden popularity are members of the William Topaz McGonagall Appreciation Society, based in a Dundee pub near where the poet lived. Alex Gouick, the society's chairman, said: "I had never considered him as a rap artist before. But if people can see that in his work, it proves that he has a lot more going for him than people thought."

McGonagali, a weaver and amateur Shakespearean actor, suddenly caught poetry the way other people catch measles, recalling in his memoirs that: The most startling incident in my life was the time I discovered myself to be a poet, which was in the year 1877." This was news to the Scots. Worse was to come when he carried out his threat and began writing. Now the elders of Dundee

want to establish a permanent memorial to him. Not if Snoop Doggy Dog gets there first.

Scientists keep God in their equation

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR response showed 39.3 per cent

THE proportion of American scientists who believe in God has hardly altered in 80 years. However, the reaction to their level of faith has changed.

A study in 1916 caused a scandal because it showed that 60 per cent were non-

believers. The authors of a new study say it will surprise many for the opposite reason. as it shows that about 40 per cent still believe in God. University of Georgia, and Larry Witham, from Maryland, sent questionnaires to

Edward Larson, from the 1.000 scientists listed in the 1995 edition of American Men and Women of Science. The

believing in a personal God. against 41.8 per cent in 1916. Mathematicians had the highest rate of belief, at 44.6 per cent, says a report in Nature. Physicists and astronomers scored 22.1 per cent, overtaking biologists as the group least likely to believe. The survey drew a response from 60 per cent of those questioned, against 70 per cent

Belief in immortality has declined from 50.6 per cent to 38 per cent. Even the number with an "intense" desire for immortality has fallen from 34 per cent 9.9 per cent.





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By RICHARD DUCE

A GANG of dog smugglers

was thought last night to be

behind the disappearance of

four prizewinning pomerians

Police believe that the own-

ers, Helen Turnbull, 58, and

her husband, David, 66, could

have been followed by the

thieves after they left the UK

Toy Dog show in Stafford last

weekend. On the drive home

to Dunfermline the couple

stopped for a pub meal near

Wigan. When they returned to

A Lancashire police spokes

man said: This looks like the

work of professional thieves.

the car, the dogs had gone.

taken from a car.

Veterans keep the Falklands spirit alive 15 years on

AN ARRAY of faces from what now seems another age met in London yesterday to establish a veterans' association for the 29,500 servicemen '- and quite a few civilians - who wear the South Atlantic Medal as proof that they took part in the defence of the Faikland Islands. It was 15 years ago yesterday that Argentina seized the islands: it took 74 days and 255 British lives to

Some of the faces have kept the memory alive, none more so than the former Welsh Guardsman Simon Weston, Yesterday for the first time since he was rushed to a field hospital with terrible burns sustained on Sir Galahad, he met the naval surgeon who first patched him up. Dr Rick Jolly, who commanded the Ajax Bay field hospital, has become chairman of the newly formed South Atlantic Medal Association. "This is the first

wrest them back.

time I have met Simon standing up," he said yesterday at the association's inaugural meeting at the Falklands Covernment's London office. Dr Jolly said that the associ-

ation had been formed because many servicemen in the task force were now retiring and might lose contact with their comrades. Many who took part, especially naval personnel, never saw the islands they were rescuing, being stuck on support ships far out at sea. The prime purpose of this association is comradeship, but I hope, in the future, that members will travel to the Falklands to meet the population they rescued." Dr Jolly said.

The association was largely the brainchild of Denzil Connick, a lance-corporal in the 3rd Battalion, Parachure Regiment, who lost a leg in the battle for Mount Longdon. "This is about comradeship, among those who fought in the South Atlantic. The Falklands war was unique: it was not long, but it was very vicious." Mr Connick said yesterday.

Mr Connick has never been back to the Falklands, but he has visited Argentina and shaken hands with his former enemies, including the soldier of the Argentine 7th Infantry Regiment who shot his leg off. I have no bitterness towards them; we were fellow-suffer-Argentinian Government does not look after its war veterans properly. Many of them are in extreme poverty, reduced to selling matches on street

What would veterans think now if the British Government took a softer line? "I still get suspicious when London has very pally talks with Buenos Aires over the mineral rights of the islands," Mr Connick said. "It would be politically



Dr Rick Jolly with Simon Weston yesterday. They last met in an emergency medical station 15 years ago

foolish of any British government to lose interest in the Falklands, not only because of the wishes of the islanders, but because of the sacrifice and the commitment we made in 1982. The lost lives must not be wasted."

Sir Rex Flunt, the governor at the time of the invasion,

who has hung up his plumed hat and lives in retirement in Berkshire, said he believed the war had changed the Falklands immeasurably for the better. "They are comparatively prosperous now, thanks to licensing the fishing grounds.

Their only call on the British taxpayer is for the defence force we keep there."

Two of the most famous names from the conflict are unconnected with the new association, but will meet at a commemoration next Tuesday. Baroness Thatcher and naval helicopter pilot, will attend a dinner on board the P&O liner Canberra, which was commandeered as a moop

Holders of the South Atlantic Medal who wish to join the association should write to

We are working on the as-sumption that the Turnbulls were followed up the M6. Ports have been alerted over the theft, as it is leared that the transport in 1982.

dogs might be smuggled abroad for sale. The dogs are like small chows and weigh about 4lb each. The owners say that each dog could be worth as much as £10,000. They are offering a £2,000 reward for

their safe return. Mrs Turnbull, who has bred pomeranians for 15 years, said: They are such friendly creatures. We are beside ourselves with worry. We have been been inundated with messages of support from dog breeders the length and breadth of the

She added: "My husband has cancer and is not a well man. He was not going to come to the show in Stafford, but he persuaded me to let him come. It was the first time he had been out since November, and this has made him worse."

A spokesman for the Kennel Club said yesterday that it was unlikely that the thieves would be able to make huge profits from their crime. Without paperwork proving the pedigree of the animals, it was unlikely that they would fetch more than £200 each, even if they were sold abroad.

Ayckbourn theatre wins reprieve

By Paul WILKINSON

A LIFELINE has been thrown to the playwright Sir Alan Ayckbourn to save the £5.2 million theatre he opened in Scarborough a year ago. North Yorkshire councillors voted yesterday to reverse a decision taken last month to cut all financial support for

theatres in the county. The decision had jeopardised other grants for the Stephen Joseph Theatre and threatened its closure when its existing funds run out later this year. Councillors agreed to give up to half of the £80,000 the

III takes

m new

county had promised. The change of heart should mean that £175,000 of lottery funding from the Arts Council should now also be released. A spokesman for Sir Alan said: "This decision to give us

a grant does make our future

much more secure, but we are not 100 per cent safe yet. We will still have a shortfall of around £40,000 by the end of the season and we must now look at ways of making that up. It will be tough, but we think we can do it. Either we will have to raise it elsewhere or we shall have to make cuts."

Sir Alan, who shows all his productions first at Scarborough, where he began his drama career, told councillors two weeks ago that their funding cut would destroy the theatre. There would not be enough cash in the bank to continue beyond this summer and the theatre, which the county council had praised. would close indefinitely only 18 months after its opening last spring, he said. He has fought a running battle for six months with local politicians over their financial support.

Despite public acciaim at the arrival of a theatre as good as many in the West End. there was a great deal of muttering about the cost to local taxpayers. At the turn of the year he was only just able to head off district councillors in Scarborough who wanted to cut their £50,000 annual commitment to the theatre in favour of more basic public services. At the time he told them: "This theatre is the kiss of life for this town. We generate ten times more in revenue for the town than we

North Yorkshire has told the theatre, however, that it



Ayckbourn: he had said cut would close theatre

should not expect financial support next year and that this year's grant will be paid only on production of an acceptable business plan.

Leading article, page 23 | front home overlooks a site

Fight on the beaches over 'shantytown' holiday huts

By IAN MURRAY

HOSTILITIES have flared between holidaymakers who like to spend summer days looking out at the sea from a rented beach hut, and seaside residents who have to spend all year looking at the huts.

and anything they do now they do with their own money.

The feelings of local people surfaced in Felixstowe, Suf-folk, after vandals set fire to three huts and the charred remains were left on the beach. When the local paper described them as "cherished and treasured" objects, the public's response was not exactly unanimous in agreement

Ray Braybrook, whose sea-

for some of the town's 1,000 huts, wrote to complain that they were not treasured or cherished by anyone living within 30 miles of the resort. and added: "I don't condone the mindless vandalism and destruction of these blots on the landscape, but I do think they should be relocated to some South American shantytown where they wouldn't look out of place."

Yesterday Mr Braybrook said that he had since received backing from many residents who were tired of this "total eyesore which is nothing more than converted garden sheds painted some

sponsible for Felixstowe's leisure amenities, said that many of the huts were handed down from generation to generation and that the paintwork was restricted to the regulation colours of primrose yellow, sky blue, pink, grey, cream or dark green. Jim Butters, chairman of

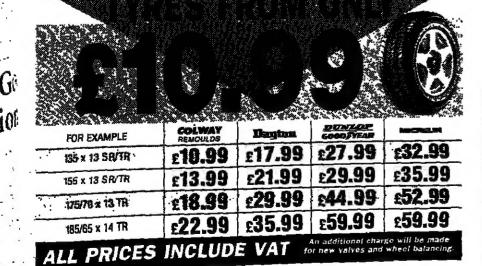
ghastly colour. However,

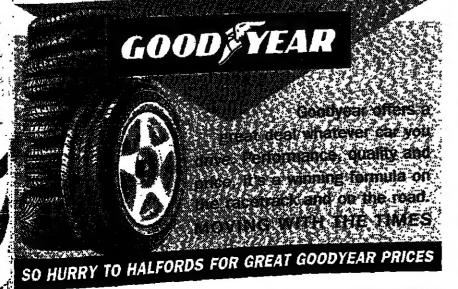
Valerie Donovan, who is re-

the now-defunct Beach Hut Owners' Association, said: "Hut owners provide a fair old revenue in rent and spending in local shops. I pay £289 a year for a barren bit of

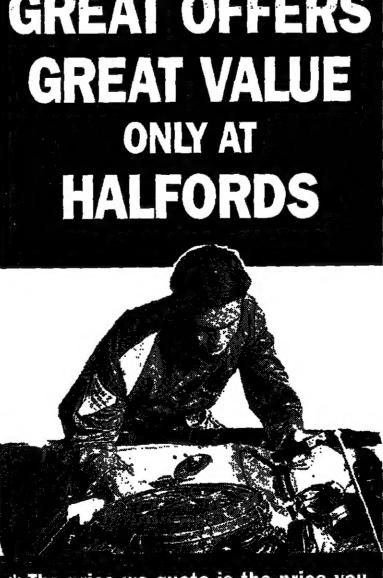
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IN THE TIMES



WHAT MEN REALLY, REALLY WANT

in a special Times edition of Marie Claire magazine, men reveal all about wives, women and for half the year.

wooing Free on Saturday

TAX: THE TRUTH Exclusive survey of the parties' track records on the pound in your pocket in Weekend Money

By Shirley English

A TEAM of mountaineers has invaded a tiny Scottish island to poison the entire population of rats that swarm over one of Europe's most important seabird colonies. They scaled 350ft cliffs, braving gales and driving rain, to leave grain poisoned with warfarin at nests, burrows and rat runs near remote ledges and deep gullies on the coast.

The abundance of eggs and newly hatched chicks on Handa Island, one mile off the northwest coast of Scotland. provides easy prey for the hundreds of brown rats that inlest the heathery isle in summer and which can grow to the size of a small dog. The only human habitant is a wildlife ranger who lives there

More than 100,000 birds. including puffins, guillemots, razorbills and rare arctic skuas, gather every April to breed on the 12-mile wide island. The Scottish Wildlife Trust, which has managed Handa as a nature reserve and site of special scientific interest since 1991, has in recent years recorded a decline in breeding among its 14 seabird species that give Handa its reputation.

The rats are blamed for



driving puffins off the island to nest on the rat-free Great Stack near by. Rare black guillemots, which once nested in crevices and under boulders near the foot of the immense red cliffs in the island's northwest, have disappeared.

The vermin originated in Asia and ousted the smaller black rat when they arrived in Britain centuries ago to occu-py the sewers. It is thought they colonised Handa more than 130 years ago, coming ashore from a shipwreck or in a bag of grain. The only other mammals on the island are otters, shrews and voles.

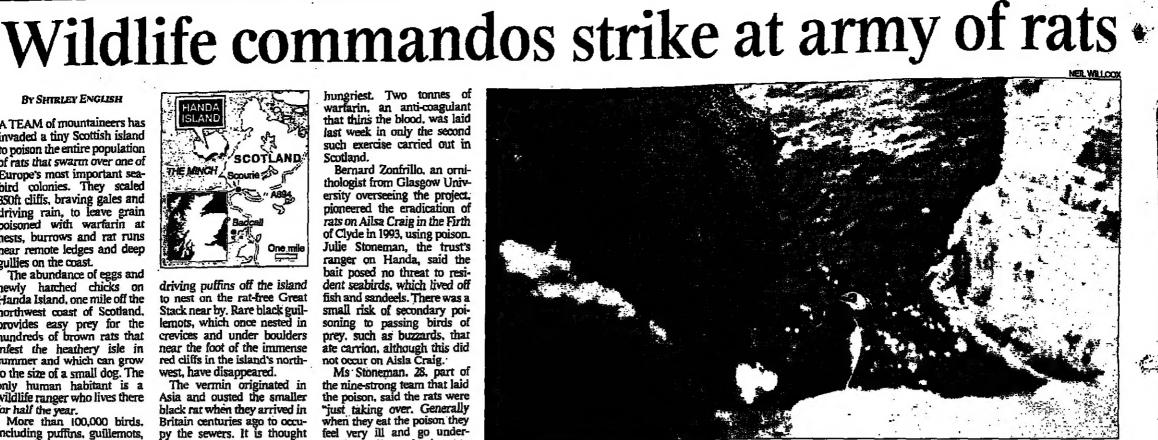
There are no predators to check the number of rats, which can increase sixfold during summer. The trust aims to eradicate them by laying poison at the end of hungriest. Two tonnes of warfarin, an anti-coagulant that thins the blood, was laid last week in only the second such exercise carried out in Scotland.

Bernard Zonfrillo, an ornithologist from Glasgow University overseeing the project. pioneered the eradication of rats on Ailsa Craig in the Firth of Clyde in 1993, using poison. Julie Stoneman, the trust's ranger on Handa, said the bait posed no threat to resident seabirds, which lived off fish and sandeels. There was a small risk of secondary poisoning to passing birds of prey, such as buzzards, that ate carrion, although this did

not occur on Aisla Craig.

Ms Stoneman. 28, part of the ninestrong team that laid the poison, said the rats were just taking over. Generally when they eat the poison they feel very ill and go underground to die, so the threat to birds of prey is slight. The benefits, however, will be great. This is a very important step which will allow Handa

She lives in a spartan hut without electricity or gas on the island's gentler south side, next to sandy beaches that slope up to heather moorland and on to the guano-splashed cliffs of the northwest. Her



The puffin is one of Handa Island's 14 types of seabirds threatened by rats that can grow to the size of a small dog

only link with the mainland is by shortwave radio to Scourie, a small town seven miles

down the coast. As well as managing the reserve, she welcomes the 5,000 visitors who arrive each year to sample the smells and sounds by the cliffs and to experience being dive-bombed

by arctic skuas who patrol the moorland interior.

It is hoped that the rat poisoning project, supported by the RSPB which ran Handa until 1991, will encourage the bird population to expand and attract new spe-cies, such as the black guillemot and burrowing birds like

the storm petrel and manx

sheerwater.

The island will be checked for surviving rats for up to two years. If any are found the exercise will be repeated. Any corpses discovered above ground will be removed.

Until the potato blight of 1848. Handa supported 12

crofting families who exploited the seabirds for food and feathers, which they sold or bartered for wool on the mainland. The 60 residents, whose ruined crofts ding to the island's slopes, had a "queen". Handa's oldest widow, and a "parliament", a council of men who met daily.

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Save the vole - by buying a white cat

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A FALL in the population of barn owls, stoats and weasels may be linked with a rise in that of domestic and feral cats, researchers said yesterday. They believe that cats,

which have replaced dogs as Britain's most popular pet, could be taking large numbers of voles, shrews and mice, on which many wild animals live.

Michael Woods, of the Mammal Society, said: "We know there is a food shortage for barn owls. This will be partly habitat-related, but there could be other reasons. and cats may be one of them. In terms of mammals, like stoats, we also seem to be

seeing fewer." A previous, unpublished study by the society in 1990, in which 35 owners were asked to record the kills of their cats, found that even well-fed pets appeared to be significant killers of wildlife.

Urban cats killed garden birds such as startings, blackbirds and thrushes. If they took mammals they were the occasional bat and frog. In rural areas, it was sparrows and wrens," said Mr Woods.

He added that the aim of the new survey, in which it is hoped to involve more volunteers, was to get a clearer pic-ture of which animals cats killed, and how many. It is hoped to match cat popula-

tions with declining local populations of birds and mammals. The findings could be used to recommend action to redress the balance, such as choosing a less predatory type

The society's preliminary study found that white cats were the least aggressive and the least successful hunters. The report found that no trophies were brought home by white cats.

The Siamese was, in contrast, the Arnold Schwarzenegger of the cat world, Mr Woods said. "The Siamese will go for anything." The amount they are fed by their owners makes no difference. An average Siamese brings home 74 birds and mammals over seven months, according to the report. Black cats were the next best hunters, with 57

Cats aged over three were far less successful hunters than younger ones. On average, a cat eats only 40 per cent what it catches: most of the hunting is for recreation.

Whether cats really do damage bird and mammal populations remains to be seen. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds believes that local populations of birds can be affected by cat numbers, but that factors such as traffic and pollution have much more impact.

his pace

Ben Maxim

sees Lance.

Mile campa:

pericery

Middle-class mice are 15% brighter

PAMPERED mice grow bigger brains, three American scientists have discovered (Nigel Hawkes writes). Larger cages, tasty snacks and comfortable bedding give mice a 15 per cent brain gain in the part that deals with learning and When tested on a maze,

those mice showed a small but significant advantage over their cousins raised in more spartan surroundings. The finding, though it may not be applicable to human babies. seems certain to revive the debate about whether nature or nurture has greater influence over development.

A team led by Dr Gerd

Kempermann, of the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California, separated 24 female mice into two groups when they were 21 days old. Half of them were kept in standard laboratory conditions, four to a cage, and with as much food and water as they wanted, for 40 days.

The other 12 spent the time in a luxury activity centre and were fed treats in addition to the standard food, the team reports in Nature. Tests four weeks later showed that those mice had at least 15 per cent more cells in a part of the hippocampus — which is involved in emotional behaviour, learning and motivation - called the dentate gyrus.

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- The Conservative Manifesto in full - see pullout in section 2
- Anatole Kaletsky on The Tories' tax
- wheeze page 8 ■ The Times/Mori poll - page 12



6...the Prime Minister had slipped into his Zen mode of delivery - we call it his Mystic Meg voice?

Matthew Parris - page 14



Why have the people of Tooting been chosen to hear Vanessa Redgrave's political message?

Joe Joseph - page 13

Heseltine hawks the big issues

WITH a single bound. Michael Heseltine leapt from his helicopter yesterday, hot from the manifesto launch, to bring the good Tory tidings to Cheltenham. The key words were power and excitement.

The famous mane streaming and suntan eclipsing the paler faces of the Cotswolds, the Tories' answer to Hale Bopp pumped hands and preached as he cut a swath through shops and streets. "Britain is booming. It's the most exciting time that I can remember," he declared outside the Safeways supermarket at Up Hatherley, just outside Cheltenham. He repeated himself all the way to Worcester, where he came to deploy his charms on Worcester Woman, the other half of Essex Man: the affections of the swing-voting lady are di-

to electoral salvation.
"The mood is changing," the Deputy Prime Minister hammered away. "I can see it in the full shopping baskets. I can hear it in the cash registers. The people are getting more power. he told the Safeways crowd, after a lasagne lunch with the manager and a test-run on the high-tech self-service checkout system.

agnosed by pollsters as the key

Not everyone was convinced by all the buzz. "It's not exciting. We're not getting more power," insisted Claire Taylor. 67. "My grandson got a 2-1 at university and now packing cigarettes." "Well, the international economists all said Britain was booming, said Hezza, turning back to project more excitement at passers-by.

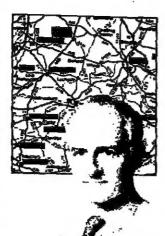
Cheltenham, its gentle Georgian avenues splashed with the yellows and greens of

71.00

A distribution of the

;urance?

ALEX COLUMN



Charles Bremner on tour with the

Tory party's top

salesman

amid a dispute over the Conservative's choice of a black candidate. This time round, the Tories are taking no such chance. They are fielding John Todman, a local lawyer and council member, who was basking yesterday in his dose of Hezza energy as he shepherded him out of what he described as his battle-bus: a blue Range Rover.

Not for Mr Todman any of that abrasive self-assertion picked up from the American campaign trail. Steering Mr H and his gaggle of Middle England Tories along Chel-tenham's decorous Promenade. Mr Todman displayed spring, is a key target for the Tories since Nigel Jones of the Liberal Democrats snatched Accosting a voter, he symbol. Mr Heseltine was Accosting by an English self-effacement in

ative candidate. Nothing too

While Hezza was proving himself vital enough for two, recent heart attack notwithstanding, as he greeted children and dished out good-tosee-you's it was clear that his attractions had made a greater impact than his name. There's that sexy one from the telly," said a thirtysome-thing admirer, "Wouldn't mind a bit of sleaze with him. But what's his name?"

Thar's Ashdown know, the Lib Dem," said her

The Deputy PM was well enough known to the man selling The Big Issue, outside Cheltenham's shopping mall. Support the homeless - unlike the Conservative Party. who couldn't give a toss," he shouted as Mr Heseltine hove into view. The politician obliged, forking out £1.60 for two issues and waiting for his change. "The big issue is who governs Britain," he beamed.

Mr Heseltine's concern diluted the bravado of Simon Savage, the 21-year-old magazine seller, producing a flush that reached to the third ring on his left ear. "Oh well they're all as bad as each other, these politicians," he

A quick trip up the M25 and Mr Heseltine was doing bartle to keep a Tory seat. Though Labour has never won Worcester, boundary changes mean it would take only a 3 per cent swing to hand the seat to Tony Blair's man. Hecklers were out in force but provided nothing that Hezza could not handle. Bob Short, 67, a pensioner, asked him if he could live on £70 a week, Mr

the seat from them in 1992, apologised for the intrusion: "I brief: "Worcester Woman Joanna Bale



Mr Heseltine conducting his counter-offensive in a Cheltenham supermarket: "I can see a changing mood in full shopping baskets"

doesn't exist. We are sure that we can persuade Worcester Worcester man, Worcester young person and Worcester pensioner of the danger of new Labour, and that you can only be sure with the Conservatives." Then it

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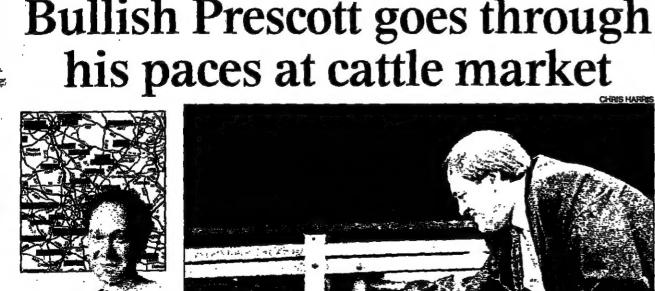
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Ben Macintyre

sees Labour's prize campaigner

perform

TWO weeks into his 10,000mile-cross-country drive for votes, John Prescott rode into the Staffordshire town of Uttoxeter yesterday to round up support among farmers attending the weekly cattle

To milk the bovine allusion. abour's deputy leader may be seen either as the lone buil sent ahead to lead the way through the electoral prairie, or according to some, as a prized but unpredictable bullock who has been removed to distant paddocks to stop him churning up the best pasture.

. This has been a long trek, even for a campaigner of Mr Prescott's prime pedigree, and as he emerged from the bus on Uttoxeter High Street to the strains of Things Can Only Get Better, he was hainly pawing the ground ind ready to charge if offered

When asked to comment on reports that he has been promised the title of Deputy Prime Minister in the event of a Labour victory, he rolled his eyes and snorted dangerous-

Mr Prescott at Uttoxeter market. His earthy comments went down well with farmers ly. "I don't comment on that sort of nonsense. I'm deputy leader of the Labour Party and I just get on with the job of winning the election. That's all there is to it."

When photographers tried to prod him into the packed auction room, he tossed his head. "I'm not going in there because the farmers don't like the flashes going off when they're bidding." His handlers, arms flapping, tried to head him back inside, and were painfully gored with some sharp and earthy expletives, drawing appreciative glances from the local farming folk, who like a beast with

But after half an hour chewing the cud with the market folk. Mr Prescon's usual good humour was renewed. The Labour deputy leader, clad in unrural pinstripe, even allowed himself to be hoisted onto a wall to be photographed trying to pat a

rather startled Friesian. The strain of his dash around 65 key seats in six weeks, from Falmouth to Inverness, may be beginning to tell, but Mr Prescott is born to this kind of heavy work. A market is the perfect foil for his brand of off-the-cuffery. No sale item is insignificant to the campaign, even if the links require some energetic

lateral thinking. At the sweet stall: "Got any gob-stoppers? Give 'em to John Major."

At the fish stall: "I like smoked haddock. We used to have a lot more fish in 1979." To a man frying chips: 1 used to be a waiter for five

To a small boy with a plastic gun: "Gor blimey |the first time I can recollect hearing someone use this expression! - give it to John Major. He's cryin' in the corner. no one's listening to him. Give im the gun."

Mad cows were the main theme of the day. At the height of the BSE furore. Uttoxeter cattle market, the largest in the region, was all but deserted. Burton constituency is No 46 on the Labour target list. requiring a 3.5 per cent swing

to unseat the Conservative, Ivan Lawrence. The constituency carries heavy symbol-ism, since the last time Labour won here was in 1945. Anger over damage to the

beef industry may be the critical factor in the local race. We've got to restore confidence after this Government's record." Mr Prescott reassured his listeners at every Some farmers at yesterday's

market were so angry that they appeared unsure whom to blame. Mr Prescott was accosted by an irate, red-faced farmer with extravagant sidewhiskers. "Why haven't you got rid of all the bloody foreign beef?" he shouted, and clumped off. "He thinks we're already in

power," said Mr Prescott. Thoroughly mollified by his brief romp in the heart of the West Midlands countryside, a docile and beaming Mr Prescott eventually trotted up the ramp into his bus, to continue the electoral bidding in the next market and the

Tories' tax wheeze has several hidden stings

IN principle, it is hard to object to John Major's idea of offering some tax rebates to people who stay at home to look after children and elderly

At present, Britain is one of the only advanced industrial countries that applies essentially the same tax system to married couples as to individuals without family responsibilities and dependants. In America, Germany and France, for example, there are different tax schedules for families and individuals. Married couples are allowed to choose whichever schedule

requires them to pay less tax. But, like many ingenious wheezes to bribe voters with their own money, yesterday's plan to give non-working spouses a tax break worth £900 annually comes with several hidden stings.

The most obvious political problem is the awkward reality that it was John Major himself who presided over the removal of the tax privileges he now wants to dangle in front of married voters. Until April 1990, when Mr Major



The privileges John Major is hoping will appeal to married voters bear a close resemblance to the ones he took away as Chancellor, writes Anatole Kaletsky

past seven years.

Major's proposal is that it will produce anomalies and disap-

pointments once voters read

the small print. While a

woman who does not work at

what will happen to a woman

who earns less than £4,045.

And for families in which both

quer, married couples were allowed to pool their personal allowances - precisely the privilege he now wants to reinstate, albeit in a restricted

It was also Mr Major who, as Chancellor, began the long freeze on the £1,720 married couples' allowance - the one vestige of recognition of family responsibilities that was left in the tax system after April 1990. As a result of these reforms undertaken under Mr Major, a working couple with earnings of £30,000 a year now pays roughly £1,500 less in taxes than a family where only one spouse brings in the same income while the other stays at

Yesterday's announcement, therefore, may merely remind married voters of the tax be smaller than the number who may feel disappointed at

having been left out. Furthermore, since it is typically the richer Conservative-voting families who can afford for the woman not to go out to work at all, it is not clear that this plan is as well targeted as it first appears. either from a social or an privileges they have lost in the electoral point of view. The second drawback of Mr

This leads to the third and most important criticism of the plan. The reason that Mr Major's concession to family responsibilities has been so hedged about is simply that woman who does not work at all will simply be able to transfer to her working husband her £4.045 personal allowance — and thereby save the family 23 per cent of this sum in tax — it is still unclear what will happen to a woman any more generous treatment would have been too expen-Gordon Brown

claimed yesterday that the introduction of transferable tax allowances for married couples would cost £3.4 billion year while the reinstatement of joint assessspouses are earning more than £4.045 annually. Mr Major's changes will have no impact at all. Since 70 per cent ment would cost £5.2 billion, he was quoting Treasury statistics. The difference between Mr Brown's figures and the of married couples with child-£1.2 billion cost cited in the ren are either both working or Tory manifesto gives a meaboth unemployed, the number sure of the number of married of people who will benefit



John Major, Brian Mawhinney and Michael Heseltine putting their manifesto message across yesterday itical stripe, would be able to pay for dramatic tax cuts only by equally dramatic

couples who will not benefit from Mr Major's plan.

But even the cost of £1.2 billion annually would make a significant dent in the Budget, pushing off into the blue yonder the day when the Tories' other tax "aspirations" can be realised. It is simply not realistic to imagine that Brit-

ain's "booming economy" will generate enough revenue to pay for both the marriage tax benefit and the further reduction in the standard rate of income tax also promised

yesterday by Mr Major. The economy may be fairly robust at present, but there is no prospect of it accelerating

sufficiently to transform the Treasury's financial prospects - and if the economy did accelerate, taxes would have to be raised, rather than lowered, if the Tories were serious about the promise to keep

tions in public spending. Alinflation under control. In reality, therefore, the next

ternatively, the Government could simply cut some taxes by raising others - precisely the course Mr Major has followed, with less than satisfac-

THE WOOLWIGH

VOU'D EXPECT



Major's deal with Clarke made pledge possible

JOHN MAJOR had to break down long-standing Treasury resistance and re-order his priorities on tax to secure the inclusion in the manifesto of his eye-catching plan to help

The proposals to give EL2 billion of tax breaks for married couples with children or dependent relatives - allowing the non-working wife or husband to transfer their tax allowance to their working partner - have long been favoured by much of the Cabinet. But they have made it into the manifesto this time only as a result of a classic behind-the-scenes compromise between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and the Pri

Minister. Some time ago Mr Major ordered his policy unit to come up with manifesto ideas to help families. But plans for the full transferability of allowances for all married couples were turned down by the Chancellor as recently as 1995 on the ground that it would cost in the region of £3.5 billion. Mr Major's policy advisers then came up with the idea of restricting the relief to couples with children or dependent relatives at home.

The targeted nature of the plan, the much-reduced cost and Mr Major's readiness to downgrade his hopes of abolishing capital gains and inheritance taxes went most of the way to convincing Mr Clarke. The party's desperate need for radical and popular measures to present to the electorate was the clincher, even though some Treasury sources found it hard yesterday to display

much enthusiasm for the plan. The Tories went to considerable lengths to show how their extra spending plans outlined in the manifesto, including the basic pension-plus scheme, the "respite" programme for carers, and the help for schools to become specialist would be more than compensated for by new savings, the biggest from the plan to sell off licences from the new generation of mobile phones.

that there was no specificprovision within the Government's forward plans for the £1.2 billion allowances transfer plan, which could add about £17.50 a week to the incomes of almost two million

families. At a series of briefings after the manifesto announcement, ministers made clear that the money would come eventually from making deeper cuts in public spending, growth in the economy and the impact of "fiscal drag", the phenomenon that produces greater tax revenue as people moving into higher tax brackets.

Mr Major said that the new plan would be introduced as as it was affordable emphasising that it would "probably" be in the second year of the new Parliament. At the same time he honoured his deal with Mr Clarke

and allowed his previous aspi-

The Conservative Party manifesto appears in full today in Section 2. The Labour Party manifesto appear in full tomorrow.

ration to abolish capital gains and inheritance taxes to take a back seat. The manifesto says merely that the Tories will continue to reduce the burden. of capital gains tax and inheritance tax "as it is prudent to do so". Mr Major told yesterday's press conference he had not given up hope of abolishing them but it was unlikely that this would be possible in the

next Parliament. Reducing the basic rate of income tax to 20p - although for the first time the Tories have set a five-year timescale on the objective — will also have to take second place to the allowances plan.

It was clear yesterday that Treasury ministers remain uncomfortable about the taxallowances plan. In truth, no Chancellor likes being told what is going to be in his Budget of two years' time.

But ministers had to admit Risk takers offered a cash inducement

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

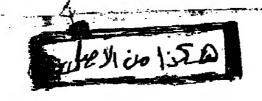
SMALL businesses would get a tax boost under a Tory government from manifesto plans to cut their corporation tax and business rates.

The schemes to reward "Britain's risk takers" is an effort to woo the five million small businesses that have constantly complained that the tax system discriminates

against them The lower rate of corporation tax would fall from a basic rate of 23p to 20p in line with personal taxation. The move maintains a commitment to keep the two rates the same. Business rates would also be cut. At present small

companies in England pay £14 billion in annual business rates, at 43.2p in the pound on the rateable value of their properties. It is now possible that the first stage of rateable value, maybe up to £250,000, will be ignored for a small business, and that variable levels of rates will be introduced.

But the manifesto contains: no boost for the self-employed. Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "Although we welcome the moves on the business rate, it is unfair that the self-employed must pay tax at up to 40 per cent while small businesses may be able to pay at 20 per





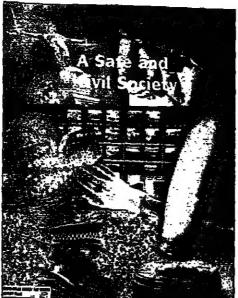
Slick design creates picture of political correctness

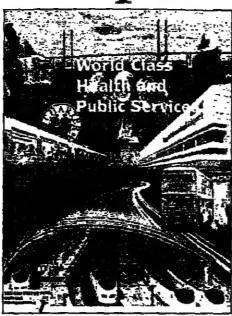
party manifestos are sel-dom works of art. It is true that the 1983 Tory manifesto was written by a novelist, Ferdinand Mount, and some since then have had passages which now read like fiction, but the prose in yesterday's document will not win any prizes. The pictures, however, break new ground.

They certainly hint at themes which are not always fully developed in the text. The pictures send out a mixed message of political correctness and Euroscepticism, and they even have a certain charm.

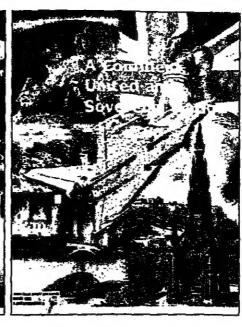
Previous manifestos have been monochrome but this one looks like a multinational's annual report, perhaps appropriately, given the emphasis on the Government's record. The 50 pages are studded with graphs and fringed with photographs. The work has been kept

within the Tory family. Although no credit is given in the text, a Central Office source confirmed that the choice of pictures was left to Smithfield Design, a subsidiary of Lowe Bell, whose chairman Tim Bell is one of the Tories' main media advisers. Smithfield declined to









Michael Gove detects a sub-text in the colourful montages of glossy photographs

comment on its choice of shots, citing client confiden-

The pages were scrutinised before publication by the party chairman, Brian Ma-whinney, and the Welsh and Scottish Secretaries, William

Hague and Michael Forsyth, The cover bears a handsome snap of the Prime Minister, all toothy grin and Austin Reed, but unfortunately accompanying Mr Major's foreword is a mugshot that looks like a still from his son's

camcorder. The presentation picks up inside. Each of the five chapters,

from "The Enterprise Centre of Europe" to "A Confident, United and Sovereign Nation", begins with a full-page montage of snaps which cre-

ate an effect similar to that of and Civil Society". The Prime a stained-glass window in a Minister claimed at the mania stained-glass window in a modern cathedral Other chapters are "World Class Health and Public Ser-

festo launch that the Tories were an inclusive party and the pictures are suitably PC vice", "Opportunity and Ownership for Individuals as well as high-tech. In the and Families" and "A Safe

in one corner, a rig stands proudly in North Sea waters in another and at the centre. between a super-Sky dish and the City by night, a stern not posed by actors - "Oh no, they're all real people, action shots," said one The inclusive theme per-

meates the United Nation picture page. Scottish pride is assuaged with a shot of Edinburgh Castle and the Scott Monument from Princes Street. The Welsh get a view of Conwy Castle and, in a nod to Ulster's Unionists. a postcard shot of the Giant's Causeway in Co Antrim is slipped in at the bottom.

The English are given a glimpse of some green and pleasant land. With every nationality nodded to in a visual echo of the eve of battle scene from Shakespeare's Henry V, we are left in little doubt who the real enemy is from the giant picture at the centre: "It's a Eurofighter," explained one Central Office

Tantalisingly tucked into a corner of the page is a fragment of a musical score overlaid by a CD. Central Office declined to reveal what the tune was: "It's meant to symbolise our commitment to the arts - but one thing you can be sure of, it isn't the European anthem."

Manifesto omits one tiny detail: how to win

ANY election manifesto has to pass three tests - does it address the real problems facing Britain, are its promises affordable and is it politically credible? Labour in 1983 failed all three with the infamous "longest suicide note in history". The Tories yesterday passed one-and-a-half, or perhaps two, out of three. Their. manifesto offered a plausible plan for a further term in government, but the party still lacks a convincing reelection strategy.

edge Ne

The Major Government has a solid economic record on growth, inflation and unemployment after earlier serious mistakes. Britain is now in a strong competitive position which could be put at risk by measures which add to business costs. But the Tories' record on public spending and tax is less impressive than their rhetoric. They can claim to have produced lower spending and tax shares than most of our competitors, but cuts in income tax have involved increases in other taxes.

Moreover, the manifesto proposals are not quite as fiscally responsible as the Tory high command was pretending yesterday. The Treasury and Downing Street compromised over the long-term reform of pensions (which would cost very little in the next parliament), over the transfer of personal allowances between married couples and over the phasing out of capital taxes. Ministers sounded a little ragged yesterday when explaining how the cost of the transfer of allowances would be financed. It

right to be suspicious when politiabout the proceeds of growth and The betting is that existing public spending grammes

will have to be cut back and indirect taxes may past three years.

icement

Only a starry-eyed optimist would believe that it is possible to change allowances, cut the basic rate to 20 per cent, keep public spending less than 40 per cent of national income by the end of the next partiament and, at the same time, virtually eliminate public borrowing by 2000.

The Tories are serious about reforming public services and extending choice and improving standards in education - even if the idea of locally maintained enough.



PETER RIDDELL

factory halfway house. The Tories' proposals on pension reform address the crucial long-term issue of the affordability of the welfare state, whatever doubts there may be about the medium-term costs.
The weakness of the man-

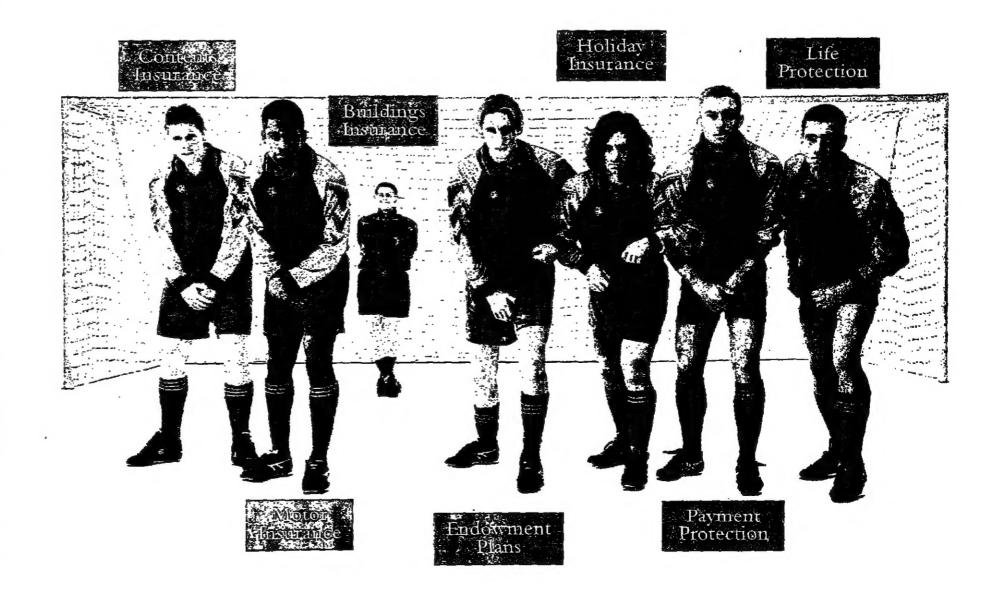
ifesto is political. The proposals are aimed at Middle England - at rallying traditional Tory supporters via the tax, education and lawand-order themes. The proposals for breaking up the remaining bastions of local authority housing may help the have-nots but the main focus of the manifesto is on the haves, both existing and aspiring. There is little to appeal to waverers and those who have switched behind Tony Blair.

John Major was yesterday at his most convincing as chief executive of HMG plc, the safe and experienced manager. But he is also leader of the Tory party and that is a far less attractive animal. The

being un-6 The weakness of the manifesto is dermined by political. The pronesses of the posals are aimed at party. It is Middle England, for the manat rallying the ifesto to retraditional Tory state the supporters. There Governis little to appeal to gotiate and waverers and those decide" approacl: on who have switched the single to Tony Blair 🤊

able minorjust as they have over the ity of Tory candidates will explicitly reject this approach in their election addresses. Will their comments be disowned?

The manifesto never really tackles the political question of whether any party should remain in power for so long. The Tories seem neither to understand nor have an answer for the "time for a change" mood. That has been far more powerful, so far, than all the arguments about competitiveness. For once, taxes and the economy may not be



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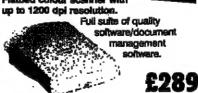
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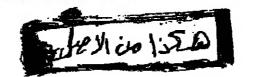
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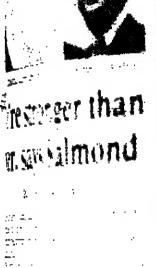
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Forsyth offers more choice and prosperity for less tax

MICHAEL FORSYTH, the Scottish Secretary, launched the first separate Scottish Conservative manifesto yesterday. denying that it had come 18 vears too late to stem the desire for a devolved Scottish

narliament. Mr Forsyth said that the nanilesio, Fighting for Scotad, expanded choice for the Scottish people, increased the power of the individual and preserved Scotland's identity within the Union. The thrust

THE manifesto pledges spending of £478 million on

law and order in Scotland

pext year — an additional

£20 million — with 500

more police officers on the

The Tories aim to intro-

duce closed-circuit tele-

vision into every Scottish town during the next Parlia-

ment. The Scotland Against

THE TORIES IN SCOTLAND

tish manifesto as "desperate

and dishonest and danger-

ous". She said: "The Tories

claim their manifesto stands

for families. But the Tories'

manifesto will fly in the face of

family values. As every Scot-

tish family knows, you should tell the truth and you should

witnesses on audiotape or

videolape would be admis-

sible in court as evidence, to prevent intimidation of

There would be legisla-

tion to speed up the court process, particularly for mi-

lawyer who deliberately

wasted court time would be

of our policy is to reduce the social security spokeswoman. amount taken by the State

Many of the policies are fundamentally the same as those already promoted by the Tories, but the 52-page Scottish manifesto has been completely rewritten for a Scottish

Harriet Harman, Labour's

LAW AND ORDER

doubling of its funding to £1.4 million, and funding

for Victim Support Scot-

land would also increase.

Laws would be introduced

by which drug-dealers who

live in public or private

rented accommodation

All Scottish police forces

would have to set up

schemes for witness protec-

could be evicted.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, said who was visiting Scotland yesterday, attacked the Scotthat the Tory manifesto amounted to "tying a tartan

> anti-Scottish policies". The manifesto commits the Tories to fighting the "tartan tax" that a Labour government might introduce to fund a Scottish parliament. Mr Forsyth said that such a tax would destroy Scottish jobs, reduce pay packets and under-mine Scotland's financial ser-

ribbon around a package of

vices industry.

The manifesto pledges to double Scuttish living stan-dards in the next 25 years. increase home ownership from 60 per cent to 70 per cent in the next five years and increase spending on health in real terms annually for the next live years.

In health, prescribing by nurses would be introduced. adopted and one-stop clinics and "telemedicine" would be expanded to allow patients in



Michael Forsyth presenting the manifesto in Edinburgh yesterday

outlying areas specialist care via video links with hospitals. The Scottish manifesto also highlights proposals to help rural areas, in particular encouraging greater access to the one million acres of woodland owned by the Forestry Commission, and maintaining tax and rating relief for farms. It

emphasises the Tory party's support for "traditional coun-

Under the heading "unionism and patriotism", the manifesto pledges enhanced roles for the Scottish Grand Committee and the Sontish Economic Council. There is, unusually for a manifesto, a page attacking Labour and Liberal Democrat plans to create a Scottish parliament, which it claims would reduce Scotland's influence at Westminster and in Europe and create tensions with local

authorities.

EDUCATION

A FIFTH Tory Government would raise standards in Scotland's schools and reward excellence. Raymond Robertson, the Scottish Education Minister, said.

Each school would be given a set of standards. based on its past performance and reflecting its individual characteristics and location. The standards would be reviewed annually and increased each year. Failing schools would be examined by the schools inspectorate.

Schools would be invited to be assessed for a quality mark in several areas, including teaching. attendance rates, uniform, access to musical tuition, sports, ont-of-school trips and extracurricular activities. A cash reward for quality would go directly to the

The assisted-places scheme would be expanded to create a Scottish scholarship scheme, allowing talented pupils from less privileged backgrounds to develop their skills at specialist inde-



Alex Salmond launching the SNP campaign yesterday

We're stronger than ever, says Salmond

By Magnus Linklater

faunched its general election campaign yesterday by accusing the Tories of being hostile to Scotland, and Labour of with a clear-cut policy. While being unsound on devolution. when it came to the final vote, Alex Salmond, the SNP lead-

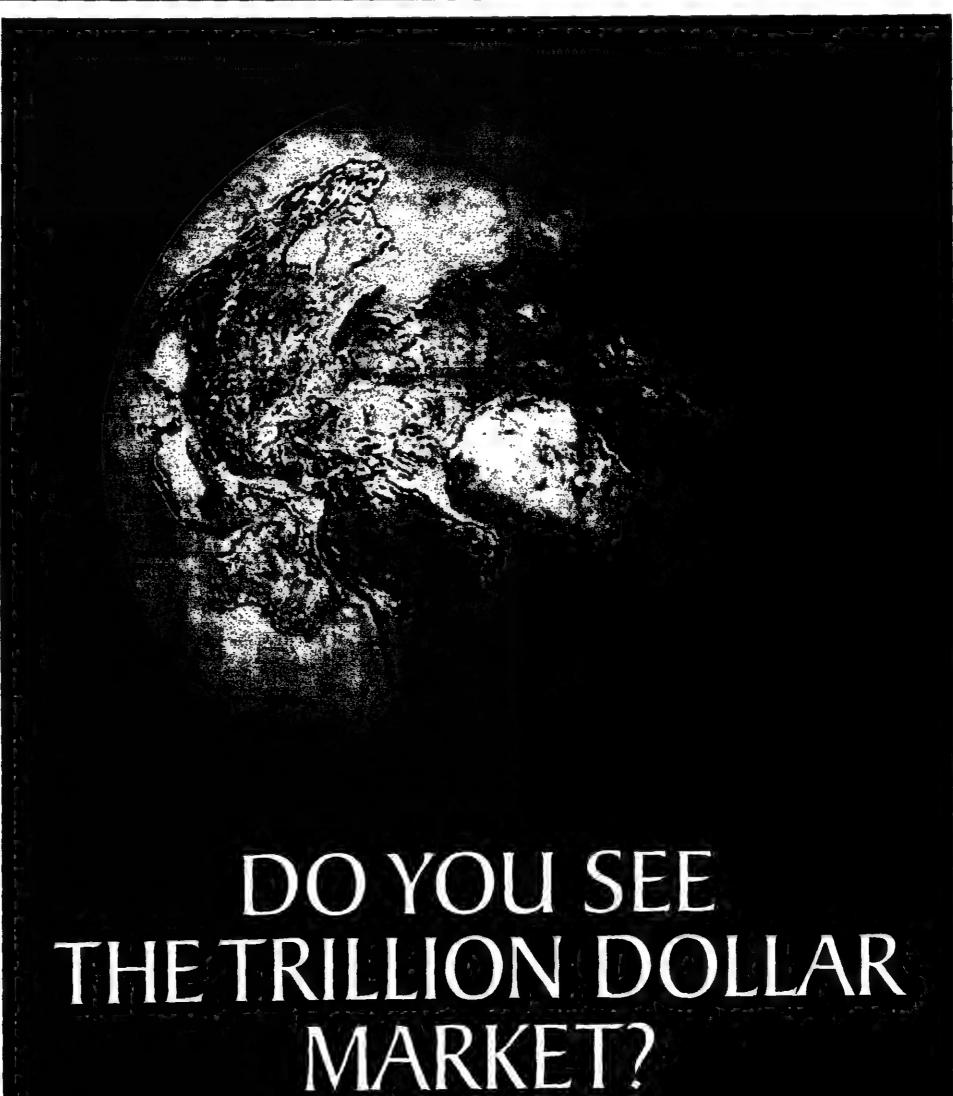
Mr Salmond argued that tieth Labour and Tories now represented only Middle Eng-

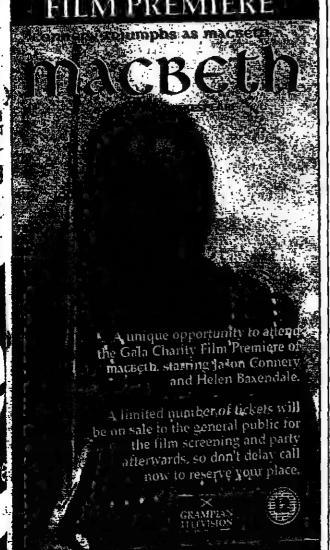
land. The SNP have our strongest, most sustained level of support ever in advance of a general election," he said. "We are better organised, better financed, and more solidly based than ever before, and our freedom message will prosper between now and

Labour's pretence of being

THE Scottish National Party firm on devolution was underthe Westminster agenda sinks As for the Liberal Democrats, in a sea of sleaze, and the growing number of Scots are

> Mr Salmond pointed to the latest opinion poll, in The Herald yesterday, showing that the SNP had regained six points it had lost the previous week. It now stands at 26 per cent, compared with Labour at 53 per cent. According to the poll, the Tories had slumped to 12 per cent after further revelations of sleaze. However, a poll in The Scotsman showed the Tories regaining





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Blunkett: gave praise

Food chain **'making** managers'

DAVID BLUNKETT yesterday courted controversy by apparently endors-ing pay and conditions in McDonald's restaurants. Part-time staff start at £3.15 an hour, well below the TUC-set minimum of £4.20. The Shadow Education Secretary was visiting the McDonald's "university" in Oxford Road, Manchester, where management skills are taught. Asked if he was embarrassed to endorse a company paying such levels, Mr Blunkett said they were well above the "slave wages" paid by some companies that forced workers to claim in-work benefits. Labour is committed to a minimum wage, but Tony Blair has refused to set a figure. Speculation suggests that the figure will be about £3.75 an hour.

Tories fail on all counts in bid to overhaul Blair

Peter Riddell says Major has more to worry about than a 27-point gap

THE TIMES

MORI

POLL

public say Labour is ahead on

all three measures, while only 8 per cent put the Tories ahead

The latest findings contrast

with those in the ICM poll in The Guardian yesterday

which put Labour on 46 per

cent against 32 for the Tories.

The difference is partly

because ICM adjusts the fig-

ures to take account of voters'

reluctance to admit their in-

tentions. On a comparable

unadjusted basis, ICM would

give Labour 45 per cent, the Tories 31 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 18. The big

difference is not so much the

Tory vote share, as the Labour

and Liberal Democrat ratings

- MORI has the latter on li

per cent — where ICM is out of

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on all three.

JOHN MAJOR and the Conservatives are worse placed on virtually every measure of leader and party image than they were during the 1992 election, according to the latest MORI poll for The Times.

The poll, conducted on Tuesday, confirms the strength of Labour's position both on voting intentions and on underlying questions of leader and party image. The latter provides an important cross-check on the former.

Five years ago, Mr Major was well ahead of Neil Kinnock on the question of who would make the most

Who do you mark would make up most capable Prim half are. Mr Major, Mr Blair (Mr

Don't know Mar 11-12 1992

Barry; 1,118 British Adults aged 16+

capable Prime Minister, while the Tories were then seen as less divided, more moderate, more professional, and as having a better team of leaders than Labour. That should have cast doubt on the figures putting Labour clearly in the lead during the campaign.

However, this time the public's views on party and leader image reinforce, rather than challenge, the findings on voting intentions. Labour not only has a huge lead over the Tories — on 55 per cent against 28 — but it is also well ahead on those image measures. For instance, Mr Blair leads Mr Major by 46 to 22 per cent on who would be the most capa-

ble Prime Minister. Labour has also moved ahead of the Tories on issues of party division, having sensible policies, being professional In its approach, being moderate, having a good team of leaders and keeping its promises. Labour is now seen as having the best team of leaders to deal with the country's problems by 40 per cent, against 20 per cent for the Tories. By a similar two-to-one margin, people believe that Labour has the best policies for the country as a whole.

line with most other polls. The MORI survey confirms Some 37 per cent think Labour is the most clear and the strength of support for united about what its policies Labour. Nearly three-quarters of Labour supporters say they should be, against 13 per cent for the Tories. A quarter of the back the party very or fairly

strongly, compared with three-fifths for both the Tories and the Liberal Democrats.

Overall, 71 per cent of those naming a party say they have definitely decided which way to vote, including 78 per cent of Labour supporters and 62 per cent of Tories. A quarter of the public say they may change their mind — of whom a quarter may switch from Labour to the Tories and a third from Tory to Labour. Nearly a third of those who have deserted the Tories since 1992 say they may change their mind, as may a quarter of those who have turned away from Labour. Waverers are more likely to switch between the main parties than to back the Liberal Democrats.

age. Just 55 per cent of 18-to-24-year-olds say they are certain or very likely to vote, com-pared with 85 per cent of those over 55. Some 84 per cent of professional and managerial people are sure or very likely cent of unskilled workers.

The determination to vote

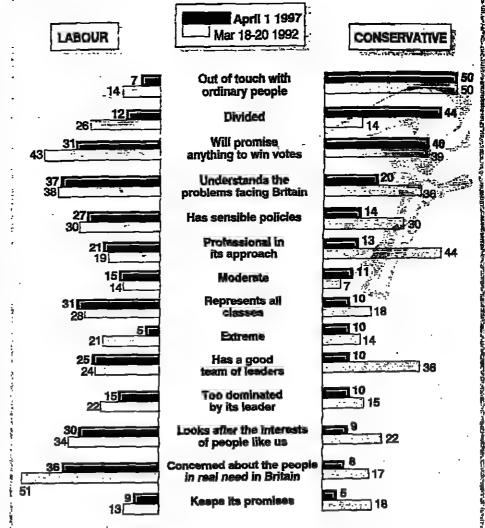
varies sharply according to

to vote, compared with 71 per MORI interviewed 1,118 adults at 84 sampling points on a face-to-face basis on April I. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (6 per cent), are undecided (12 per

cent), or who refused to say (4

CONSERVATIVE AND LABOUR: HOW THE PARTIES COMPARE

Here is a list of things both favourable and unfavourable that have been said about various political parties. Every time you come to a statement that fits your ideas or impressions of the (party) just tell me the letter next to it



Base: 1,118 British Adults aged 18+

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Ashdown shuns spotlight to work on hospital ward UBERAL DEMOCRATS PADDY ASHDOWN spent two hours working on a hospital ward earlier this

week in the first of several

media-free trips he hopes to make during the election campaign (Polly Newton writes). in a manoeuvre reminiscent of the occasional "secret" visit to the sick and needy by Diana. Princess of Wales, the Liberal Democrat leader helped staff serve meals and hot drinks to patients at Guy's Hospital in southeast London

on Tuesday afternoon. His office tipped off only two camera crews about his whereabouts. They were waiting for him when he emerged although they were not invited to film him on the ward.

Mr Ashdown's desire to exclude reporters did not last. He dropped in a casual reference to the visit during the Liberal Democrats' regular election campaign press conference yesterday, and was happy to expand on it afterwards. He said: "It gave me a real chance to talk to doctors and nurses. It certainly informs my view of the condition of our country today."

The nursing auxiliary to whom Mr Ashdown was assigned declined to comment yesterday. But a hospital spokeswoman said staff had been pleasantly surprised that Mr Ashdown wanted to visit without photographers and

Renewing your

April or May?

home insurance in

cameramen in tow. "In the run-up to the election, we expected that people would want to come and visit. Unusually, what Paddy Ashdown wanted to do was to stay for a few hours and help out on the

C

Mr Ashdown said he became fed-up during the last election campaign with meeting people around the country only briefly to confer what he described as "the Westminster blessing." An aide to Mr Ashdown said visits like the one to Guy's would be fitted in where possible, perhaps to a police station or a school.

In 1992, Mr Ashdown wrotebook. Beyond Westminster. in which he documented his travels around the country

meeting people. Giving details of the Liberal Democrats' plans for the NHS, Mr Ashdown said the party would plough an extra £550 million into the health service each year. Its proposed increase of 5p on 20 cigarettes would raise £200 million for extra staff - enough to employ 10,000 more nurses or 5,000 more doctors.

The party would raise E350 million a year by extending the levying of national insurance contributions. The extra revenue would be used to cut waiting lists to a maximum of six months within three years.

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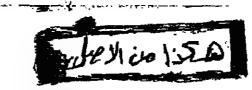
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TOPPOS



· Tooting is popular front for launch of new party

FILLING the political vacuum left by the demise of Luvvies for Labour, the Marxist actress Vanessa Redgrave and her younger brother, Corin, yesterday unveiled Britain's newest political party, the Charter for Basic Rights. They are hoping to strike a chord with voters across the whole political spectrum.

SERVATIVE:

._ 22

shum

O Work

CRATS

Like the Redgraves, Jan Koene - the party's sole candidate, who is fighting the south London seat of Tooting - opposes "the laws of a police state". So do the ever-angry playwrights Harold Pinter and Edward Bond, who are backing the petite new parry and Mr Koene, an Equity member who is getting a chance to play in real life the role Robert Lindsay played in the sitcom Citizen Smith, in which he campaigned for the Tooting Popular Front

"We object," the theatre lecturer and director said in his campaign HQ in Tooting, specifically to the Criminal Justice Act, the new Police Act, the Crime Sentences Act that has just gone through. And the Asylum Bill. We feel that they

CHARTER FOR BASIC RIGHTS



Corin and Vanessa Redgrave lending their support to the party but unlikely to be campaigning actively

Ulster.

party talks on the future of

But why have the people of

Tooting, who at the last elec-

tion returned Labour's Tom

Cox with a majority of 4.107.

Redgraves' message? "Tooting

is the constituency where I

lived for a long time before

moving to Merton," Mr Koene

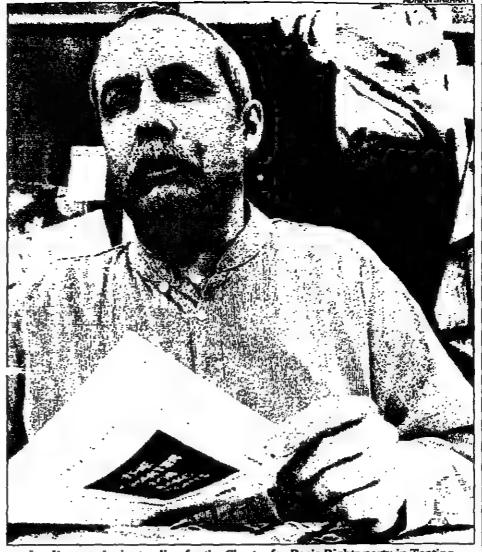
undermine basic human rights. Also, the Tories have introduced so many antiunion acts, and - as far as we can tell - the Labour Party won't repeal any of them."

In addition, the Charter for Basic Rights calls for troops to be pulled out of Northern Ireland and for the release of all political prisoners, with immediate unconditional allnon, in both class and nationality terms. We have a strong Asian community, a strong Polish community. A strong Irish community as well." So will the party's official

launch on April 9 in Westminster be a celebrity affair? Probably not. "Vanessa is on stage in New York at the moment. Corin is trying to be as active as he can be, but he's also very busy, performing at the Barbican and rehearsing during the day at the Nat-ional. Mr Pinter and Mr Bond are busy in their own right, so I don't expect to see them out on the streets."

Quite like the lonely. " thumper Willie Smith after all, then? Have voters been ribbing him on the hustings? "I quite expect," he says, resigned to his fate, "the comparison to surface somewhere as the campaign

Mr Koene, 48, is a member of the Marxist Party, but he says his new party is open to everyone: "People who are members of the Marxist Party or Lahour Party are free to join. I doubt that the Conservatives would want to join."



Jan Koene, who is standing for the Charter for Basic Rights party in Tooting

NBRIEF

Portillo goes on the attack

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, visiting troops in Portadown, Co Armagh, said that the timing of remarks by Mo Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, who suggested that republicans could join talks in June if the LRA declared a ceasefire now. WILL WYONG.

Launch ban

Foreign media were barred from the Conservative manifesto launch because there was not enough room in the Central Office press room. European reporters had to watch the launch on room near by.

Waite says no

Terry Waite, the former Beirut hostage, has ruled himself out as the search continues for an anti-sleaze candidate to stand against Neil Hamilton in Tatton. He said that he had been sounded out, but there was no chance of bis

Labour policy on hunting 'would mean job losses'

By Michael Hornsby. countryside correspondent

PEOPLE working in country sports yesterday warned the Labour Party that a ban on hunting would put thousands of jobs at risk and incur the lasting enmity of rural voters.
The Union of Country

Sports Workers, launched yesterday to protect an estimated 150,000 jobs linked to field sports, said it wanted talks with the leaders of the main political parties before the election. It describes itself as a trade association rather than a conventional union.

Labour is committed, if elected, to providing parlia-

PELO SPORTS

outlaw, hunting with dogs, should that be the wish of MPs as expressed in a free vote. It also plans to ban hunting immediately on land owned by the Ministry of Defence and the Forestry Commission.

John Fretwell, huntsman with the Stowe Beagles in Buckinghamshire, and chairman of the new body, said that all who earned a living from hunting, coursing, shooting and fishing were facing a grave threat. 'The immediate target may be hunting, but it will only be a matter of time before the anti-field sports campaigners move on to shooting and fishing. Any political party that bans country sports will be knee-deep in dishonour, knowing they have made thousands of good people homeless and jobless."

He said that country-sports lovers also had doubts that they could continue to rely on the Tories. Thousands of gamekeepers, grooms, ghillies, huntsmen, stalkers, foresters, saddlers, farriers, feed merchants, hoteliers and shapkeepers faced threats to their jobs, he said.

Most of those working in country sports were poorly paid, and many lived in tied cottages or other accommodation that would be taken away along with their jobs.

spokesman on rural affairs, said: "I welcome the fact that workers in a low-paid industry are getting together, but they should be concentrating on improving their pay and conditions. Only 7 per cent of horses are involved in hunting and the Labour Party has no plans wharever to ban gameshooting or fishing."

Jack Cunningham. the Shadow Heritage Secretary and a keen fisherman, said it was not Labour policy to ban hunting with hounds, but to allow MPs a free vote on an issue that had arisen under Tory and Labour governments.

BUTCHER'S 390/



PEDIGREE CHUM



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PEDIGREE CHUM COMPLETE





CHOOSY

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR NEGATIVE campaigning affairs. The volunteers, divid-

Dishing the dirt can

have winning effect

works, American researchers have shown. However much we disparage mudslinging, some of the mud sticks and it influences votes.

An experiment to be reported later this week at the American Academy of Adver-tising conference in St Louis. Missouri, shows how effective it can be. Carried out by two researchers from the University of Georgia, the test in-

MUDSLINGING

volved 339 volunteers who were told about a congressional race between a Pat Mithaels and a John Boerman. Although both candidates were imaginary, the volunteers were not told this.

Each volunteer watched a 30-second commercial in which Michaels attacked Boorman, accusing him of falsely claiming to be a Vietnam veteran, of consistently voting for tax increases, and of showing no interest in local

ed into groups, were also shown attempts by Boorman to defend himself, through videos, pamphlets, or newspaper advertisements. Some groups saw the rebuttals before they had seen the original charges, some after, while one group were not shown any rebuttal. They were then asked how they would vote.

The negative commercial had a devastating effect on Boorman's campaign, New Scientist reports. About two thirds of the volunteers said they would not vote for him. Even among those shown the rebuttals before they had heard the charges, Boorman was not able to secure more than 50 per cent of the vote at

Dr Tinkham says that the study "illustrates that attacking messages are inherently stronger than defensive messages" and that the effect lasts. While the effect of Boorman's defence strategy faded quick-ly, memory of the original charges against him persisted.

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The leader who doesn't relish coming to a full stop



AT THE launch of the Conserva-tive Party's manifesto yesterday. the press were issued, a few minutes in advance, with John Major's text. As he turned to page 6, so did I. This dealt with the funding of personal pensions. The last sentence read: "It is a long term policy but governments should think long term. And we

"Major won't say that," I thought. He simply will not deliver short, punchy sentences. He has no problem with them intellectually they escape his eye when he canters through the draft of his speeches - but when it comes to saying them out loud in front of an ment is thinking long term," he

So I followed the text carefully as he ploughed on. Looking a good deal less fed-up than on Tuesday, when he had angrily fielded sleaze questions, the Prime Minister had slipped vesterday in his Zen mode of delivery - we call it his Mystic

Meg voice.
"It is a long-term policy," he began, "but governments should think long term." So far so good. In company (no doubt) with his speechwriter. I willed him to say: "And we are."

It came looming out of his text at him. He shied. "And this Govern-

audience, Major always shies at said. He managed not to add " ... and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future."

I think the problem is emotional rather than stylistic. Mr Major is the very opposite of a burner of bridges. As a learner driver he probably had an emotional block about entering cul-de-sacs. As he is by nature one of life's balancers, a reconciler, a seeker of consensus. this Prime Minister does not like bald statements. They commit people to things; they nail colours to masts; they put you out on a

Besides, past experience must have reinforced his staccatophobia. "I want to put Britain at the very heart of Europe" has caused such pain, since it was uttered. In retrospect, saying "the very heart" was a blunder. "Somewhere not a million miles from the kidneys" would perhaps have been

But maybe the unequivocal has always set his teeth on edge. Short sentences whisper "Danger!" from every page. "Norma, I love you" must have been hard, as must "Will you marry me?" Perhaps "Will you marry me, when time allows?" slipped out.

The tragedy is that, reaching for fuzz-words as a toddler reaches for a dummy, Major can stumble into formulations that end up by hurt-

ing him more. His use of "considerably" has invited considerable mockery: and, within even the most boneless prose the pharisees of Fleet Street can find bits of gristle to isolate from the context of his speeches and throw back at

So it was unsettling, after his speech, to see the PM cornered by a journalist who asked why the promised transferable tax allowances are to be transferable only between "caring" partners who are married. You could sense Major's discomfort as the obvious response wrestled, in his mind, with his reluctance to say it. There was no

elch put it "We are in favour of marriage." he said, miserably. Sleaze-seeking antennae aquiver, 200 journalists sucked their teeth. No Caring Concubine or Kindly Catamite Allowance, then?

... But I forgot to give you the end of his speech, whose title was The Best Place in the World to Live" and whose final sentence read: "Our goal must be to make Britain the best place in the world to live." The Prime Minister read this as drafted; after which the text read "ENDS".

Major looked awkwardly about. ... and this is what we intend to achieve." he said. When time

MARTIN BEDDAL

Major accuses Humphrys of taking sleazy way out

IF THERE is anything worse than getting out of bed on the wrong side, it is getting out of bed on any side only to find John Humphrys waiting for you downstairs with a microphone. The prospect is enough to make even the equitable

John Major sound ratty. And ratty is what Mr Major sounded after five minutes of his first big set-piece radio interview of the campaign, on Radio 4's Today programme yesterday. Mr Major is clearly ted up with being asked about sleaze, a word which has achieved remarkable promi-nence considering that, as a noun, it does not actually exist. Humphrys had introduced Today at 6.30am but disap-

peared from the airwaves before 8am to be shortly from Broadcasting driven House to Downing Street. This was for the famed slot known as "ten past eight", when most of Today's heavyweight political interviews are conducted. "Ten past eight" is no longer merely a time of

The Conservatives feared John Major would be mugged on Radio 4's Today programme yesterday. Peter Barnard listened

day; the phrase has become imbued with venom to the point where it may soon be covered by incitement legis-

"It's ten past eight and I'm in Downing Street with the Prime Minister," Humphrys announced. That is what most Today listeners heard, Listeners in Conservative Central Office, where the Today pro-gramme is detested, heard: "It's ten past eight and I'm prowling along Downing Street waiting to mug the Prime Minister."

Central Office need not have worried. Indeed I could not help feeling that the interview, in terms of who won and who lost, ended at 8.15, even though

it was to last another 12 minutes. It was at 8.15 that Major said the following: You have hijacked half of this interview aiready on a matter [sleaze] that is largely irrele-vant to the future of this

> about the real issues." Well yes, he would say that. But on the other hand there is a growing feeling out in the highways and byways that we cannot possibly elect or sack a government on the basis of who took used tenners from whom in brown paper bags. Some might suggest that more worrying than a few MPs allegedly on the take is the fact

that most electors have as-

country . . . most of the people

in this country want to talk

sumed for years that most MPs are on the take, unfair as that conclusion is.

The first four questions, out of a total of 14, dealt with allegations of sleaze, even though Mr Major repeatedly suggested that the discussion move on. There were 35 complaints from listeners that Humphrys had asked too

many questions about sleaze.

A BBC spokesman said that the level of complaints after the interview was significant. but by no means surprising. He said that the two and a half million listeners who regularly tune in at "ten past eight" were more prone to complain than listeners to almost any other programme. Humphrys was unrepen-tant later. "Some callers said

had been too hard on me," he Humphrys is a past master of the political interview but yesterday one felt he missed a beat, chose the wrong strate-

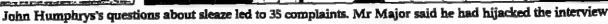
gy. He began with sleaze,

they thought that Mr Major

Major Interview with Humphrys lasted 18 minutes Humphrys asked 14 questions (not counting interruptions) of which six were about sleaze Humphrys about sleaz and moved the interview on to tax and

Major to say that this plan

was all about family values.



which is old hat, on the very day that the election campaign acquired some muscle with the launch of the Tory manifesto. And starting with sleaze proved to be a hostage to iortune, for a perfect opportu-nity to raise the matter came later, when Mr Major talked about the plan to improve the tax position of married couples. Humphrys wanted Mr

but the Prime Minister was not falling into that trap. He clearly smelt a rat, for family values and dailying Tories have too often sat at opposite ends of the same question.

So Mr Major launched a pre-emptive strike. Offered the term family values in connection with tax, he snapped: That isn't what I said ... of course it will help strengthen the family, but it's a practical tax change to help people."

The response was effective, as were most of Mr Major's responses yesterday. But he may have lost a vote in Cambridge. Humphrys reported that Diana Jackson, a Cambridge solicitor, had

called to say that the married couples' tax plan was a U-turn after the Tories' reduction of the married couple's allowance eight years ago. "I don't mind what she thinks," Mr Major said. Ms Jackson, a

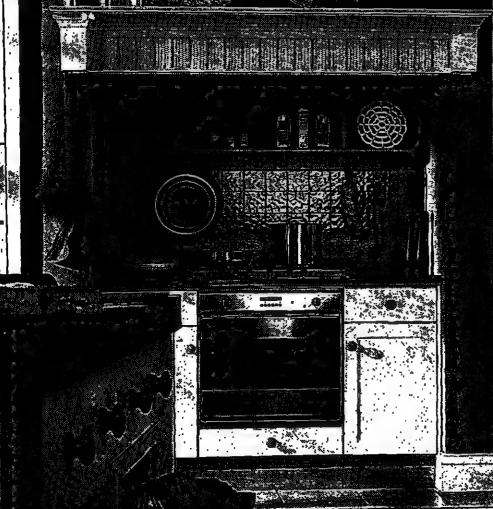
working mother whose husband stays home to look after their children, later told The Times that she was taken aback by the tone of the Prime. Minister's response. "He said he did not care what I thought. I thought he was very rude," she said.

He may well decide that a points victory over Humphrys at the expense of a vote in: Cambridge was not a bad morning's work.

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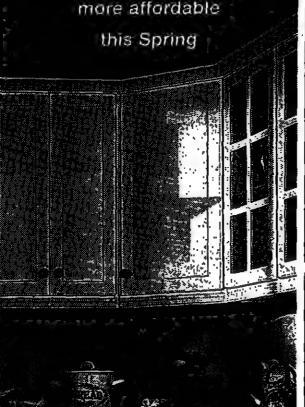
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Food for thought

ON THE STUMP

I don't think £17.50 a week is going to make people rush out and hear wedding bells. Kenneth Clarke, on the World at One

If the Tory education manifesto is an example of Mr Major's passion, I feel sorry Nigel de Gruchy, teachers' leader, at their Bournemouth conference

If there's an anti-sleave candidate in this country, it's me.

John Major, on the Today programme Why should we buy another set of election manifesto tax promises from a Prime Gordon Brown, at Labour's morning press

Our goal must be for Britain to be the best place in the world to live.

With the Tories' record on tox you wouldn't believe them whether you are middle-class, working-class or whatever other class. John Prescott, in Uttoxeter

John Major, in the Tory manifesto

Most people in Britain will be more interested in an apology for the last manifesto than the promises in this one. Paddy Ashdown, at his morning press

Got any gob-stoppers? Give 'em to John

John Prescott, at a sweet stall in Uttoxeter suspect it's yet another promise which is undeliverable. I put it in the locker marked 'fantasy promises'.

Paddy Ashdown, at the conference, on the Tory tax promises

have never met anybody who won a negotiation by being outside the door, and that's what this Government are doing. Margaret Beckett, on the Tories' Euro-

I was fed up at the last election with rattling around the country conferring the Westminster blessing on some unsuspecting lathe operator in the West Midlands.

Paddy Ashdown, explaining why he was meeting people away from the media

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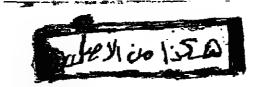
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French put looted art on show to find Jewish owners

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE French Government anment to provide an inventory nounced yeserday that almost 1,000 works of art looted from Jews during the Nazi occupa-tion and not in the possession of stolen Jewish property as European governments lace of French puseums are to go on show ir he hope that they can be restred to the owners' descendan At a presconference held at

the Muse d'Orsay, Philippe Douste-Bluy, the Minister of Culture, amounced that the 987 works yould go on public show from April 9 in five museums the Louvre, the Musee dorsay, the Centre Georges Impidou, the Nat-ional Cermics Museum in Sèvres an the Château de

The farilies of the original owners ofthree paintings by Picasso, Albert Gleizes and Tsugouhiju Foujita, which had beer looted by the Nazis and while were now in the possessio of the Centre Pompidou, rad already been traced, M Douste-Blazy said yesterday adding that the painting would be returned to their shtful owners "after the shorest possible delay". Pressue has been mount-ing on he French Govern-

New Yok: Jewish advocates,

seeking b pressure European

underwiters to honour long-

overlooke life insurance pol-

icies of Hitler's Holocaust

victims, ave filed a \$7 billion

(£4.4 bilion) lawsuit in the

The action is being brought

by nin elderly New York

Jews. It some cases, it is

alleged, noney due to victims

familiesvas given to German

officers Quentin Letts writes).

The empanies named in the acon are from Italy.

Austria France and Germany

and, acording to lawyers for

the plaitiffs, have financial

interest in New York, where

the lawpit was filed. In early

response some of the com-

enswerble to the claims ow-

ing to ownership changes or

Edward Fagan, an Ameri-

growing demands for the return of treasures looted by the Nazis. The Gaullists have publicly declared their inten-

tion to expose the truth about an era which for more than half a century has been shrouded in shame. M Douste-Blazy said yesterday that the decision to hold the exhibitions had been made "out of concern for openness",



Douste-Blazy: defended

ing the case, said that life

insurance was a popular in-

vestment in prewar Europe

among Jews. After Hitler's

rise to power, however, many

policy-holders lost their

money and their families did

not receive payments when they should have done.

the nine relations of Holo-

caust victims have produced

yellowing policy documents.

many Manhattan Jews, re-

sound with the names of Nazi

concentration camps and

panies, meanwhile, the choice

may be between paying a

settlement figure to get the

argument to go away or, by

adhering to the perhaps strict

interpretations of assessor-

speak, to endure long-run-

damage to

matched memorics.

To reinforce their claims.

Families sue for \$7bn

ious to defend France's state museums.

"I wish to prove that the reality is more complex than the rumour according to which French museums 'received stolen goods', real 'treasures', pillaged from Jewish families by the Nazis," he said.

The word "looted" was often used incorrectly, he added, noting that recent research carried out by a team of museum conservationists at the Musee d'Orsay on more than 300 works showed that the majority had not been stolen but had been legally acquired on the Paris art market during the Occupation, either by private collectors or German museums.

However, this does not after the fact that between 1940 and 1944, as more than 74,000 of France's prewar Jewish population of 300,000 were deported and murdered in Nazi death camps, their possessions were systematically plundered by the Nazis and the Vichy French col-

Vichy officials are known to works of art from 203 private collections under laws passed on July 22, 1941. Among the 1,963 artworks stolen from Jewish families and held "provisionally" in French muse-ums are paintings by Monet. Renoir, Sisley, Gauguin and Courbet.

Those works which are not included in next week's exhibition, often because they are in regional museums, are listed in the 400-page catalogue.

Finding the owners of the "orphaned" artworks will not be an easy task. Most perished during the war and any surviving relatives are often unaware of their inheritance. Yesterday M Douste-Blazy

emphasised that French museums "were never opposed to restoring works" to their original owners, However, Jewish organisations have criticised the French state museum authorities for not having activesought the artworks' rightful owners; many will no doubt view the exhibition. although a step forward, as being shamefully overdue.



policeman guards Illegal alcohol dealers after a raid on their warehouse in the outskirts of Moscow. Such successes, and the queue of people who waited to file income declarations by April 1, show that the

Moscow targets its tax dodgers

nation of taxpayers. However, it collected only 59 per cent of the taxes it expected in the first quarter, and

its campaign to turn Russia into a may have to cut spending further, Segodnya, the daily newspaper, reported yesterday. Last month Presi-dent Yeltsin reshuffled his Govern-

been shrinking for six years, but it has yet to launch any initiatives. Last year revenues were lower than expected economic performance and

US gun lobby | in global fight

Washington: The National Rifle Association, the powerful American gun lobby, is launching a global campaign to discourage other countries from tightening gun controls (Bronwen Maddox writes).

Members are concerned that laws in other countries will constrain gun owners and traders in America. Tanya Metaksa, the NRA's new campaign leader, said in the association's magazine that when guns are being confiscated in Australia and Britain — nations which once shared a tradition of gon ownership -- NRA members must stand shoulder to shoulder".

The association has formed a pact with manufacturers and gun groups from 11 countries to oppose new international rules.

Russia and Belarus dilute pact

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin has signed a treaty of union with Belarus, providing a basis for closer economic, political and military ties but maintaining the neighbours' sovereignty and separate courses of development.

The document was a much watered-down version of the grandiose plan proposed last weekend by President Lukashenko of Belarus, who hoped to rebuild the Soviet era ties between his country and Russia, including a programme of economic development, a single currency and political power-sharing.
That scheme had been

roundly condemned by liberal politicians in Russia, who want no association with Mr Lukashenko's dictatorial regime, as well as by economists

and the leaders of other former Soviet republics. They regard Mr Lukashenko's ideas on reintegration as unrealistic, as well as a threat to their recently gained inde-

One of the most outspoken critics of the proposed union was Leonid Kuchma, the President of Ukraine, who described it as nonsense. "If there is unification, it will be completely mechanical, because the speeds of development of Russia and Belarus are completely different, as are the leaderships," he told Interfax news agency.

Despite the pomp of the Kremlin signing ceremony. there was little substance to the eventual agreement, with much of the detail transferred to a separate charter which will undergo public debate and revision before coming into force. Mr Yeltsin was at pains to emphasise that the treaty stopped well short of a merger between the two

The union does not create a single state," he said. "Each side keeps its sovereignty. At the same time, it takes our integration on to a qualitatively new stage." He also said that a single currency, while desirable as a long-term goal. was many years away. Under the agreement, the

countries are to set up a supreme council, to be chaired by each President on a twoyear rotating basis. It will ters and parliamentary Speakers. Its powers remain unclear. Its designated purpose is to outline joint policies. in order to co-ordinate activities in foreign relations, the economy and the military. But it appears that the Supreme Council will not be able to overrule existing laws in either country, while agreements with a third country would remain inviolable.

Mr Lukashenko, who spent the morning with Mr Yeltsin wrangling over the final de-tails before the signing, ap-peared to be trying to put the best face on what fell far short

of his ambitions. The integration plan caused protests in the Belarussian capital, Minsk, from nationalists who feel Mr Lukashenko selling their independence. Yesterday some members of a 4.000-strong march against the treaty clashed with police.





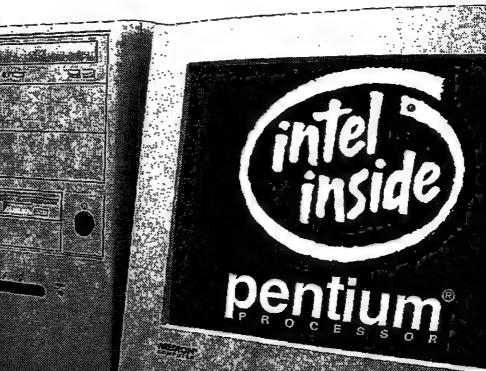


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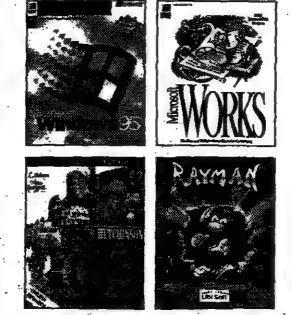
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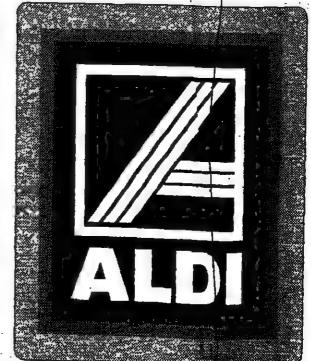
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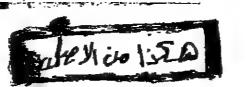
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of risks

ir Vihamia

Clinton aides ensnared in Whitewater scandal

From Ian Brodie in Washington

TWO of President Clinton's most trusted aides were snagged by the Whitewater scandal vesterday amid strongly disputed allegations that "hush money" had been

n mud

ecold.

The White House disclosed that the aides, Thomas "Mack" McClarty, former White House chief of staff, and his successor. Erskine Bowles, had sough help from business friends to line up lucrative work for Webster Hubbell, a close friend of the Clintons who resigned under fire as Associate Attorney-General.

Between his resignation in March 1994 and pleading guilty to fraud the following December — for which he served (amonths in prison — Mr Hubbell was paid some \$500,000 (£300,000) by nearly a dozen firms, among them his Democratic contributors.

big Democratic contributors.
Kenneth Starr, the White-water prosecutor, was widely reported to be focusing on these reainers to determine whether they were paid to buy silence over incriminating evidence about the Clintons in

the Whitewater affair. Mr Hubbell had worked closely with Hillary Clinton on Whitewater matters and was the custodian of relevant documents that went missing for months.

Mr Hubbell has denied that the retainers affected his level of co-operation, but has declined to say what he did for the various employers.

A report vectoriay in The

the various employers.

A report yesterday in The Wall Street Journal said that,



Hubbell: "a conspiracy or is it Arkansas?"

if Mr Hubbell's old friends did come to his aid to ensure his silence, the Administration could be embroiled in a coverup scandal the like of which had not been seen since Watergate.

The disclosures pushed the Hubbell issue to a new level and once again brought the controversy to Mrs Clinton's door, the newspaper said.

Mr Hubbell knew the Clintons for 20 years in Arkansas where he had been Mayor of Little Rock, Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, a law partner with Mrs Clinton and a frequent goffing companion of Mr Clinton.

When Mr Hubbell resigned from government, Mr McClarty, a boyhood friend of the President, told Mrs Clinton that he would try to help. According to Mr McClarty, she acknowledged the comment and perhaps thanked him, without saying much more. Mrs Clinton has no recollection of the conversation, officials said.

Mr McClarty had only a

Mr McClarty had only a hazy memory of discussing

Mr Hubbell's plight with Mr Clinton. Mr McClarty did persuade wealthy friends to employ Mr Hubbell, but Mr Bowles had not been successful.

One payment to Mr Hubbell of great interest to the Whitewater investigators is \$100,000 from an affiliate of Lippo Group, the Asian conglomerate already being examined by the Justice Department for its fundraising for the Democrats. James Rlady, whose family controls Lippo, made several visits to the White House before hiring Mr Hubbell a

week later.

Mr Hubbell has said little since leaving prison, but he did spurn the idea of a conspiracy to win his silence in an interview with a newspaper in Arkansas — a state often regarded by other Americans as backward and hillbilly.

He said: "You know how it is. You piece together this and that, you make this grand conspiracy. But is it some grand conspiracy or is it



About 300 striking Paris medical students and doctors block the Champs Elysées

French doctors protest over cuts

FROM SUSAN BELL

HUNDREDS of white-coated junior doctors staged a sit-in in front of the Elysée Palace yesterday before blocking the Champs Elysées and the Place de la Concorde. Others cut major railway lines as they intensified a three-week-old strike against health spending cuts (writes Susan Bell).

cuts (writes Susan Bell).

The strike, which has spread to 23 of 26 teaching hospitals, has turned into a test of the efforts by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, to cut France's welfare deficit so it can qualify for the European Union's single currency in 1000.

Junior doctors across the country, angry at an "inflexible" Government that is deaf to their demands, joined their Parisian colleagues. In Marseilles, 800 staged a sit-in on railway lines. Similar protests took place in ten major cities, delaying trains in Bordeaux, Lyons, Lille and Montpellier.

Demonstrators occupied social security offices in Angers and Nice.

Doubts on sex motive in death of starlet

FROM TOM RHODES
IN BOULDER, COLORADO

FOR the moment the media pack has dwindled outside the redbrick Tudor-style mansion in Boulder in the basement of which the body of JonBenet Ramsey, six, was discovered on Boxing Day, Distracted by the nearby

Distracted by the nearby trial of Timothy McVeigh, the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing, and the suicide of 39 cult members in California, America's focus has shifted briefly from the gruesome death of a beauty pageant starlet.

However, experts yesterday offered a new theory on her death. De Richard Krugman, a Deniver expert in child abuse, said the post-mortem report suggested that JonBenet had suffered a brutal physical attack, but she was probably not sexually

was probably not sexually assaulted as was believed. His assertions will bring little solace to the Boulder police force which, nearly 100 days into its inquiry, still appears to have no significant leads. Dr Krugman's theories are likely to cause even greater speculation about Jon-Benet's parents, whose antics have caused widespread pub-

lic suspicion.

Initial reports that semen was found on the girl's body are now discounted, and Dr Wilbur Richie, a local coroner who has also read parts of the report, said he had reached a similar conclusion to Dr Krugman. "I've read it three times, and to me... it in no way suggests sexual assault."

JonBenet, her brother Burke, ten, and their parents John. 53, and Patricia, 40, were the only people known to have been in the bouse on Christmas night and a report

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RRANTY:

The K. Spill

Burke, ten, and their parents
John, 53, and Patricia, 40,
were the only people known
to have been in the bouse on
Christmas night and a report
this week said there were no
tracks in the snow outside the
next morning. However, neither John Ramsey, a millionaire computer executive, nor
Patricia, a former Miss West
Virginia, have been named as
potential suspects.

They have declined to give

the standard taped statement to police that would require them to be interviewed separately. After weeks of indecision over whether they would independently observe DNA tests at a Maryland laboratory, the couple have declined. However, this waiting game has delayed any results of forensic science tests until later this month, and possibly jeopardised the later validity of the DNA evidence. On Friday, the Ramseys relieved their expensive media consultant of his du-

ties, referring all questions to a tacitum local law fum. WORLED SUMMARY

Prodi tells of risks in Albania

Rome: Italy's parliament yesterday considered the hazardous prospect of an Italian-led peacekeeping operation in Albania after Tirana asked Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, to go ahead with the proposed nilitary interventant.

tion (John Phillips writes).

The military mission will "not be without risks and difficulties, both organisationally and technically," Signor Prodi told the Chamber of Deputies after a lightning visit to Albania to meet government officials.

Hong Kong rights plea

Hong Kong: Democracy activists have petitioned China's National People's Congress not to repeal the city's human rights laws (Jonathan Mirsky writes). Members of the Hong Kong Alliance for Human Rights marched to the office of Elsie Leung, the Secretary of Justice-designate in the future government, and handed her a petition with 9,000 signatures.

Letter, page 23

Journalist <u>kill</u>s himself

New York: Only days after being recalled from Washington because a co-worker discovered his plans to defect, Chinese journalist Wei Guoqiang committed suicide in Beijing, The New York Times reported. Mr Wei, 47, was the Washington bureau chief of the New China News Agency and a well-known figure in the American capital. (Reuter)

School lunch hepatitis alert

Los Angeles: Strawberries possibly contaminated with hepatitis A were given to 9,000 people for lunch in 18 Los Angles schools. Californian officials were alerted when an outbreak in Michigan was traced to the same lot of frozen fruit. The disease has a fourweek incubation period. (AFP)

Taxing ordeal

Lima: Tax officials do not share worldwide sympathy for hostages held in the Japanese Embassy residence for 105 days. The 50 Peruvians will have only an extra month to file their returns. (Reuter)

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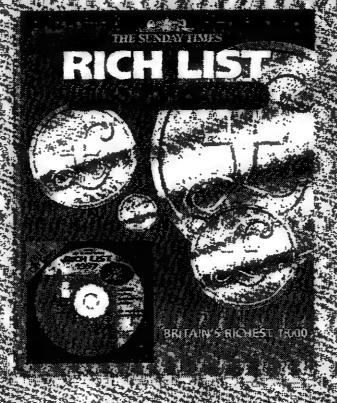
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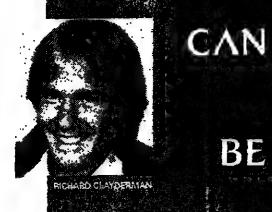
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A BETTER APPROACH TO BUSINESS

Bombers ambush Israeli army bus

Attack marks a 'serious escalation' after 13 days of protests

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIANS with a petrol bomb ambushed a military bus ferrying Israeli soldiers to guard Jewish settlements yesterday, sending the blazing vehicle plunging off the road and injuring 12 soldiers and the driver.

The Israeli Army imposed a strict curfew on the nearby ref-ugee camp of Jalazoun, 12 miles north of Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank, after the two attackers fled there. They described the attack, the worst against the army since clashes erupted 13 days ago, as

"a very serious escalation". The stricken bus rolled 20 yards down an embankment after the petrol bomb smashed through the windscreen, causing the driver to lose control as flames licked through his cab. Smoke was still rising from the wreckage an hour later after the wounded had been taken to hospitals. Their injuries were described as "light to

moderate". Elsewhere in Israeli-occupied Arab areas, clashes continued between Israeli troops and stone-throwing youths protesting at the building of a new settlement at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem. Near Nablus, Israeli tanks were deployed in an ominous show of strength designed to deter more than 1,000 angry Palestinians from attending the funeral of a plainclothes Palestinian po-liceman, 20, who was shot dead by Israelis in rioting on

The bus ambush, in broad daylight at about 1.40pm, raised new questions about how long such a level of violence can be contained. Israeli commanders have repeatedly threatened to unleash "Operation Molten Steel", a force of tanks, attack helicopters and snipers based near every main Palestinian town, if weapons were used against Israeli troops.

hours later.

calling a new intifada, came hours after the announcement that Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was going to Washington on Monday. In an apparent attempt to

display a new determination to clamp down on Islamic extremists responsible for three suicide bombs in recent days — two on Tuesday in Gaza both failed to kill or injure a single Israeli - the Palestinian security forces yesterday detained 30 people. Most of them were connected with Islamic Jihad, the group behind Tuesday's double

Israeli officials doubted the effectiveness of the round-up. at least 13 of the detainees having been set free only.

Senior Palestinian sources argue that Israel has itself

crackdown on Islamic extremists from Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, and Islamic Jihad could spark a civil war in the Palestinian-con-

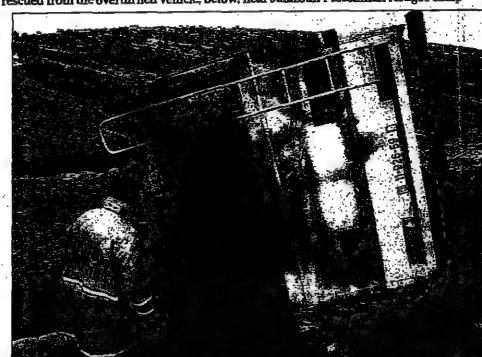
Green mourning tents were set up yesterday outside the two homes of the bombers who bungled their missions to kill Israeli schoolchildren on Tuesday, a lack of military success doing little to detract from their new roles as heroic

trolled areas.

Anwar Shadrawi, 20, a science student, and Abdallah Madhoun, 19, who was still studying at high school, were both from the Jabaliya refugee camp north of Gaza City a noted hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism. Relatives said that both men left their homes before dawn on Tuesday after prayers.

Leading article and





Netanyahu wants Clinton to back round of 'final status' talks

FROM BRONWEN MADDIOX

PRESIDENT CLINTON is considering supporting an Israeli proposal to start a new round of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks to tackle directly the most contentious issues, in an attempt to halt the deteriorating relations between both sides.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, who is due to visit Washington on Monday, is hoping that Mr Clinton will endorse his suggestion of scrapping the present "interim" negotiations and move ing which both sides could make clear what they wanted from a further round of talks.

Mr Netanyahu's visit comes as violence in the Middle East is spreading, bringing the peace pro-cess to the point of collapse. Mr Clinton, who has received a procession of Middle Eastern leaders in Washington in the past six weeks,

orrectly to "final status" talks with the Palestinians. However, Administration officials, concerned about the risks of the move, say that the United States may instead back the opposite strategy, a "coolins-off" period directly to "final status" talks with pledged on Tuesday "personally to do anything I can" to save the peace empt the planned talks over the future of Jerusalem, Washington has twice vetoed a United Nations stronger action to stave off an approaching crisis", appear to have vielded no new ideas on how to

advance the process. In the past month, Palestinian-Israeli relations have deteriorated sharply as a result of Israel's decision to start building houses in east Jerusalem. Although the United States agrees with Arab leaders that

future of Jerusalem, Washington has settlements.

twice vetoed a United Nations

Security Council resolution con- Clinton intervened directly in the not now hopeful that Mr Clinton will exert as much pressure on Israel as the Bush Administration did when it blocked American aid and loan guarantees.

The United States has been pressing Israel to adopt a coalition "government of national unity" and to move soon to talks with Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, about

the future of Jerusalem. It has also urged Israel to promise to limit new

It has been six months since Mr rocess when he called a summit of Mr Netanyahu, Mr Arafat and Kine Hussein. State department officials feel that the frequent trips made to the Middle East by Warren Christopher, the former Secretary of State, diminished their influence. They want Madeleine Albright, appointed as Mr Christopher's successor, to make visits only when there is a chance of a breakthrough.

PEOPLE GOEST

WAITING

LISTS

Playground gunman to be shot and 'crucified'

Sanaa: A Yemeni appeal court ruled yesterday that Muham-Ahmad Misleh al-Nazari, 48, should be executed by firing squad and that his body should be nailed on a cross for three days near two schools here where he shot dead four children and two

The ruling, which upheld a death sentence passed on Monday, a day after the attack, received applause and cheers of "long live justice" from hundreds of people, some relatives of the victims. Misleh opened fire with an assault rifle on hundreds of children lined up in the yards

morning classes. Eleven children were injured, four of them seriously. He claimed he was trying to avenge the alleged rape of his daughter and the kidnappings

of the adjacent schools before

of his daughter and son. The crime sparked calls in Yemeni newspapers for a government campaign to rid the impoverished country of ille-gally held guns, which are estimated by officials to amount to around 50 million weapons. (Reuter)

Mercenary leader denies bribing Papua politicians FROM NOEL PASCOE IN PORT MORESBY

THE Papua New Guinea Government has paid a company supplying mercenaries only half of its £22 million fee for the suppression of an island uprising, the commission of inquiry investigating the contract was told yesterday.

During the hearing Tim Spicer, a former British lieutenant-colonel now an executive of Sandline International, denied that there had been any kickbacks to benefit Papua New Guinea leaders.

"The Government has paid £150,000 on a consultancy fee, and the first instalment of £10 million under the contract has been paid," he said. "The final payment (of £10 million) due under the contract has not been paid pending the outcome of this inquiry."

Marshall Cook, the Australian QC representing Sir Julius Chan, the former Prime Minister, said that the con-tract was funded firstly by a temporary overdraft on the state's bank account, to be recouped by accelerated payments of dividends and taxes payable by state trading corporations.

"It was estimated at the time

that approximately 75 million kina (£22 million) would come into the treasury by the end of May 1997 to cover that tempo-rary overdraft," he said. Normally, dividends and taxes from state corporations were payable at the end of the year. but the Sandline contract "accelerated the proportion of payments before the final dividends were declared".

Opposition MPs have alleged that the £10 million first instalment was paid from funds raised last year by the float of government holdings



Spicer: final £10 million 'has not yet been paid'

in resources projects through Orogen Minerals Ltd, allegedly filtered through a company known as Roadco which is associated with a state-owned

company. lan Molloy, counsel assisting the commission, questioned Mr Spicer about his role in the contract negotiations. The Sandline chief reected claims that people involved in facilitating the deal had wanted bribes and "kickbacks".

He answered "no" when asked if anyone had suggested that "what was paid to Sandline should benefit them". He also denied that his company had paid bribes or secret commissions to any politican or public official to secure the contract.

Colonel Spicer told the inquiry that Sandline was paid the first instalment through an electronic transfer to a bank in Hong Kong four hours after the contract was signed. He said he had received an equivalent Roadco cheque on January 24 as "security" that the contract was about to be signed. He was to hold the cheque and not present it for

Canadian mink pay ultimate price for freedom

By QUENTIN LETTS

ANIMAL liberationists who set free hundreds of mink from a Canadian fur farm achieved the opposite of their desired goal. Many of the mink died of exposure, while others were run over or scratched each other to death

The anti-fur activists, apparently members of the extreme Animal Liberation Front — recognised as a terrorist group

by the FBI - struck at Ebert's Fur Farm in southwest Ontario during the Easter weekend. The raiders opened cages and cut holes in the farm's perimeter fence before encouraging the valuable mink to

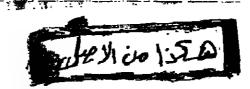
However, the "rescue" coincided with a spring storm in southern Canada. More than 100 of the mink were reported to have died from exposure; having been

had no idea how to look after themselves

in the wild. Usually mink hibernate. Many other creatures wandered on to the country roads only to be run over by traffic. Still more engaged in deadly mink-on-mink combat.

Three women and two men have been arrested and charged with breaking, entering and mischief. The damage to the farm, owned by Bill McLellan, was put at







Demonstrators in the Gaza Strip's Jabaliya refugee camp wave photographs of Abealla Madhoun, a suicide bomber who blew himself up in Gaza on Tuesday

War fears eclipse peace hopes

Even Jordan, Israel's most

friendly neighbour, has halted

talks on constructing a joint

about Mr Clinton's chances of

restoring the momentum of

peace are based on a number

of factors, notably the polar-

isation of views between the

key players and the realisation

that Arab faith in Wash-

prognostications

EVEN before yesterday's attack on an Israeli bus near the Jalazoun refugee camp there was an ominously wide consensus that the Middle East was facing its most serious and dangerous crisis since the 1991 Gulf War. President Mubarak of

Egypt, normally one of the more moderate voices in the Arab League, went further: Since 1977, the peace process has not degenerated to such a low level. The situation is very dangerous, and I am very worried about what will happen." The fact that his remarks were made to a visiting Israeli journalist and splashed in Maariv, the Tel Aviv daily newspaper, was a sign that things have not reached that point: unlike 1977, when President Sadat made his courageous flight to Jerusalem, a

structure of peace is in place, The question being asked by both Israeli and Arab leaders is whether - with every day bringing more appalling violence, more bombs and more activity from the Israeli bulldozers on the east Jerusalem hillside of Har Homa — it will soon collapse completely.

The answer will not be known until Monday when Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's right-wing Prime Minister, visits President Clinton in the White House. With Russia. the joint sponsor of the 1991 Madrid peace conference, facing its own problems, the sale chance of rescuing the peace process lies with Washington. International telephone lines have been buzzing in advance, but there are mixed feelings about whether Mr Clinton has



As Binyamin Netanyahu's meeting with President Clinton nears, Christopher Walker examines the tensions building up in the Middle East

the ability to pull off a diplo-matic triumph to rival his achievement last September when he brought together Mr Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat. the Palestinian leader, and began the slow path to a deal on Hebron.

Although the violence is not yet as bad as in September. when nearly 80 people were killed and 1,500 were injured, the framework of peace is more fundamentally strained. Trust has evaporated on both sides. The implications of the latest crisis have spread further around the Arab world. Syria has succeeded in caioling the Arab League to isolate the Jewish State in a way many thought was forgotten.

Mubarak: "Situation

is very dangerous"

ington's role as an "honest broker" has been shattered by last month's United Nations vetoes on two resolutions condemning the Har Homa settlement "It will take a major Ameri-can initiative, and it is hard to

visualise that it will be effective," said Gerald Steinberg, a



Netanvahu: determined to keep up settlements

University near Tel Aviv, "I do not see Netanyahu returning to negotiations unless there is an explicit series of statements from Arafat condemning terror without hesitation - something he has never done."

Mr Netanyahu, whose domestic political position has been strengthened by his determination to send the bulldozers to Har Homa, made clear to me in an interview this week that there was no way that he would halt the building work, or that he would talk peace rather than security with the Palestine Liberation Organisation until he was convinced that it was cracking down on Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, and Islamic Jihad.

Yesterday his instinct was supported by a poll that showed 52 per cent of Israel's Jewish population backed continuing with the Har Homa project. "To call it a 'settlement is a nonsense," Mr Netanyahu said. "It is a housing development and matched by developments for Palestinians in other parts of Jerusalem."

He insists that until Mr Arafat provides a secure environment by ending the new wave of terror, it is impossible to hold peace talks. Mr Arafat insists that security and political talks must be held in tandem. He is also demanding a halt to all further Israeli settlement building, a condition commentators say Mr Netanyahu could never sell to

While Arabs and Israelis can argue ad infinitum about

YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

Har Homa, a barren hillside that is one of the odder causes of war in a region never short of them, both sides are agreed that Jerusalem - an issue that should not have been negotiated until 1999 - is now on the table. The battle for Jerusalem has begun," said Avigdor Kahlahani, the Israeli Security Minister.

The raison d'etre of Oslo was that mutual trust would have been built up in the interim enabling really sticky issues to be resolved more easily. Other areas outstanding include the fate of the 144 Jewish settlements sitting on occupied land. "The trouble is that Netanyahu had to choose between keeping his coalition together, or proceeding with the spirit of the Oslo accord," said one European diplomat. "He has chosen for the moment to do the former, but

there is nothing to say that he will not change again under sufficient American pressure." Those determined to see hope through the teargas clouds filling the West Bank predict that Mr Netanyahu may soon spike his extreme

right wing by bringing the Labour Opposition into a national unity government. Even should that happen. few expect him to withdraw from his core beliefs, which many Arabs are convinced will trigger war. "I want to clarify that we will not retreat to the 1967 borders, we are against a Palestinian state and

we actively oppose the division of Jerusalem," he told deputies

this week. "I recommend the

abandoning of faise dreams."

Kennedy magazine article outrages widow of Rabin

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

LEAH RABIN, the widow of Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, has attacked the morals of John F. Kennedy Jur for publishing a magazine article by the moth-

er of her husband's assassin. Mrs Rabin, who is on a visit to the United States, took issue with Mr Kennedy for allowing Geula Amir to write for his political monthly, George. Mrs Amir, whose son, Yigal, murdered Mr Rabin in 1995, used the oppo nity to defend her son.

Noting that Mr Kennedy's father, President Kennedy.



paper." She accused the magazine publisher of giving Mrs Amir a platform she did not

In her article Mrs Amir speculated that Israel's secunity forces had wind of the Rabin assassination but did not prevent it in the early stages, hoping to take credit for a dramatic rescue of the Prime Minister.

George, an often dreary publication, needs all the con-Rabin's outburst - which coincides with her efforts to publicise her book — was an embarrassment for Mr Kennedy. Mrs Rabin is held in high regard in the United

"I would expect John Ken-nedy, who lost his father to an assassin's bullet when he was a mere child and grew up in the shadow of that horrible tragedy, to adopt a higher moral stand," she said.

A member of staff at the magazine said Mrs Amir's article was not intended as 'an objective examination of the events surrounding Mr Rabin's assassination".

☐ Gaza: Yassir Arafat. the Palestinian leader, said Pakistani authorities had detained suspects who were plotting to kill him during a visit to Islamabad last month for an emergency meeting of the Islamic Conference Organisation, according to a report by the official Palestinian news agency, Wafa. (Reuter)

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The lesson of baby Jessica Time to put



treatment in pregnancy; treating the baby blues year-old music teacher, is justifiably proud of her 6lb 14oz

daughter, Jessica Helen, who was born on Easter Monday. Jessica might easily have been aborted at the twelfth week of Polly's pregnancy, when it was confirmed that the lump she had found in her breast was a cancer. As it is, Jessica had an uneventful delivery, is in excel-lent health, and is already a delight to her family. Polly comes from a medical

family; her mother teaches nursing at the University of East Anglia and her father-inlaw is a retired GP — so the concept of

'Polly's making risk-benefit analyses cannot decision have been entirely strange to her. Even so, she and her husband John has done were devastated other when they were initially given an almothers a ternative Either consider. service' the baby would have to be aborted

so that Polly could have radiotherapy as well as surgery, or the pregnancy would be allowed to continue with no chemotherapy - a choice which would ensure the baby's survival, but only by sacrificing the best chance for

Polly was at the time attending the West Suffolk Hospital, in Bury St Edmunds, where she and her family received every support and guidance. Surgery for the removal of the breast, and dissection of the glands in her armpit, showed that the turnour had spread into three of the 17 glands examined.

The consultants at Bury St Edmunds suggested that Polly should obtain a second opinion about the best way to proceed, and she and her husband elected to consult Professor Michael Baum, who

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on cancer pollution danger in the garden;

Marsden to University College and the Middlesex Hospital, in London, it was suggested that there was a third option - Polly could have chemotherapy once the baby was completely formed.

Twice a month from the twentieth week of her preg-nancy, she travelled to London to receive the standard chemotherapy, an injection of cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and 5-fluouracil — the wellknown mixture known as CMF. She suffered few sideeffects, other than tiredness.

regime, given once the foetal organs and systems are formed, is safe for the child. Dr Leonard Price, of the Landon Clinic, who is a great advocate of chemotherapy in appro-priate cases, said: "Polly has done a great service by publicising her treatment. There is

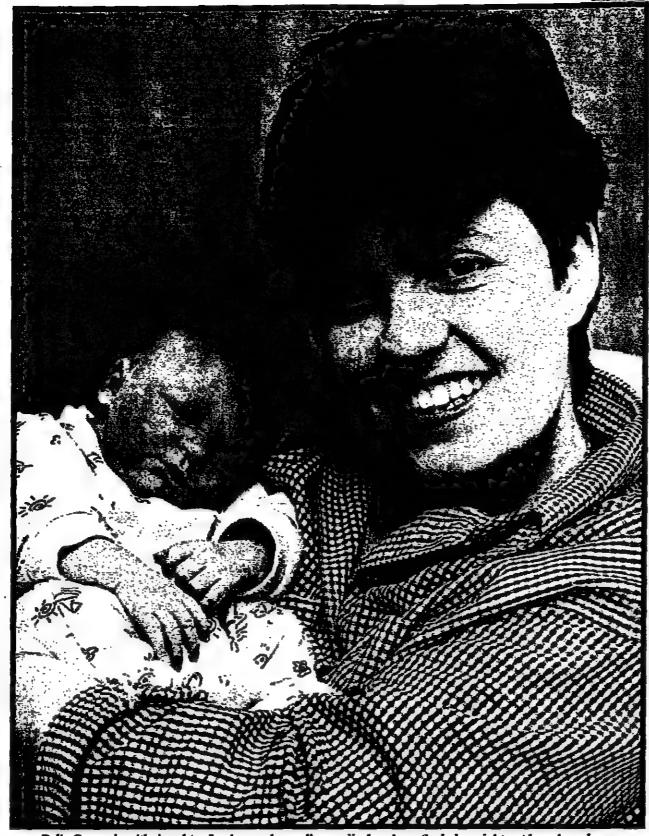
a misapprehen-

sion, common even

among some doctors, that because the foetus is a dividing-cell system, chemotherapy in later pregnancy will damage it. There is no evidence for this."

About 20 cases such as Polly's have been treated at the Marsden during the past ten years in a similar way. However, radiotherapy - which would often be given to a woman with a cancer of this sort — is not appropriate during pregnancy because of the possibility of damage to the IQ of the child. There may also be other side effects. Now that the child is delivered, radiotherapy presumably remains an option in Polly's

It is the aim of all doctors to diagnose breast cancer early. Diagnosis is not made easier by the number of women who have benign mammary dis-



Poliy Carnegle with daughter Jessica: under earlier medical regimes the baby might not have been born

ular breast changes, some-times with cystic changes. Mammography has helped enormously in the diagnosis of malignant disease in these cases; before it became available, a cancerous growth could easily be lost among the surrounding hu bumps, and hidde humps and

term's eggs are when laid on a pebbly beach.
Patients with nodular, or

cystic breasts, should have mammograms more frequently than their contemporaries. and if indicated their cysts should be aspirated.

Twenty-five per cent of all

breasts and 7 per cent have cysts present. Women with breast cysts

have a small increase in the chance of developing cancer. Research has suggested that this is not because the cyst is pre-malignant, but because the same conditions which

produce a cancer. A recent report in the British Medical Journal from Italy has shown that the chemical composition of the cysts has an important predictive value. The increase risk of breast cancer is concentrated in women in whom a proportion of potassium to

smoky mowers out to grass

ou don't have to see daffodils in the gardens to know that winter is over, the noise of lawnmowers is as much a harbinger of spring as any flowering cherry

In tonight's Channel 4 programme Mad About Machines, a man whose hobby is collecting lawnmowers will have his eccentric interest exposed to the world. Having 34 lawnmowers may seem a harmless enough enthusiasm, no more reprehensible than collecting military prints. But unlike the prints, lawnmowers pollute the atmosphere as effectively as they shatter the silence of the countryside.

At a recent lecture given to

city planners and doctors in London, an expert on clean air said that a mower emits as much in the way of airborne pollutants as 30 average family cars.

Air pollution, whether from petrol or diesel engines can. according to the National Asthma Campaign, trigger an attack in many susceptible pa-

tients, although there is no evidence to prove that it actually causes the problem in someone who does not already

Research in Birmingham has revealed that the closer children live to a main road. the more likely they are to suffer from chest troubles.

Airways of those with asthma are particularly sensitive. Engines — whether diesel or petrol and whether large as in a bus or small as in a mower release nitrogen dioxide into the atmosphere. Nitrogen dioxide irritates the asthmatic's vulnerable airways and also has the power to make them more sensitive to other allersens such as household mites. pollens or flecks of skin from the coat of the family dog. Nitrogen dioxide also renders asthmatic patients more likely to catch viral infections. Half of all the United Kingdom's emissions of nitrogen dioxide are accounted for by the

exhaust from vehicles. Nitrogen dioxide is only one of many poliutants produced by engines. All of them spew out little pieces of dust and dirt. known as particulate matter, which are small

particulate matter combines with sulphur dioxide, another pollutant, to form a highly irritant substance which is harmful to any patient who has chest troubles.

Statistics published in 1993 from six American cities showed that there is a close association between mortality and the concentration of particulates in the atmosphere.

Nitrous dioxide and sulphur dioxide particulates are only some of the pollutants emitted by cars, buses, and lawnmowers. Carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds, hydrocarbons such as benzine, butadeine and methane are also produced. About two thirds of these hydrocar-

bons in the atmosphere come from the exhaust of en-'Mowers gines, and a third from the evaporaemit as tion of the fuel. Exhaust fumes also much pollution as 30 oxidising agent which at high levcars' els causes permanent damage to vulnerable air-

> increases their sensitivity to antigens which cause asthma. There is nothing more pleasing to the eye than a well-cut lawn. But these delights could be gained without polluting the atmosphere if mower engines and those driving chainsaws or weed trimmers were fitted with appropriate catalysers. Environmentally friendly ones are available and are manufactured by a com-

ways, and at lower levels

pany called Husqvarna. On a grander scale, automotive emission systems are readily available which reduce exhaust emissions in cars by 95 per cent. Others are in trials which, it is hoped, will reduce them by nearly 100 per cent. By using the appropriate converter, it is now possible to reduce exhaust from diesel buses and lorries by more than 60 per cent, and their nauseous black smoke by 90 per cent. These converters also increase fuel efficiency by more than 7 per cent.

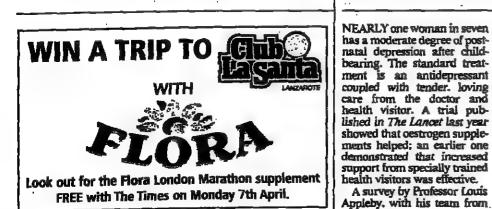
The tragedy is that, as yet. the British Government's proposals which would make lawnmowing or motorway driving less destructive to people with chest complaints



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Beware the barman with a flame-thrower

bars it's still not unusual to being served alight, with a blue flame, like that on a Christmas pudding, licking around the top of the glass. Attractive as the custom may be, the drinker always has the sneaking fear that the alcohol is being wasted by being burnt off, but few people realise that it can also repre-

sent a health hazard. The journal The American Surgeon has reported on three cases in which the action of the kindly waiter when he topped up the glass converted the bottle he was holding into a flame-thrower.

The flame-thrower, naturally enough, was pointing in the direction of his customer and, in all three cases, the burns suffered by people who

In the pink

after the post-

natal blues

Manchester, has been report-

ed in the British Medical

Journal. The researchers com-

pared Prozac fluoxetine (an

antidepressant) with cognitive

behavioural therapy in the

treatment of non-psychotic

Both treatments were effect-

post-natal depression.

had been hoping to enjoy a quiet evening were severe. The burns are likely to be particularly cruel as they will probably involve the face and mnda

The Americans, always inventive, have designed a gauze protector which can be fitted to the bottle so that pouring a generous portion will not turn the dinner table into the replica of a war zone.

ive, but no advantage was obtained by using them simultaneously. In many cases there is a great improvement in mood within a week. The conclusion was that the

preferred treatment might be for the mother to have one cognitive behaviourial treatment session followed by the fluoretine; and no further counselling. For those who have a strong dislike of pills, six sessions of therapy is as likely to be effective as the anti-



Tim Henman: famously dedicated to the game

Debris in the elbow joint

TIM HENMAN has had arthroscopic surgery to remove debris from his elbow. It is reported that the operation has been a success, and it is expected that be will be playing within six weeks.

Henman is famously dedicated to the game and has already risen above other more serious physical problems such as osteochondritis, to reach his present place on the world stage. but this is a severe setback.

DE 1

Hoovering up the bits and pieces, which accumulate in a damaged joint, is becoming a well known use for arthroscopic surgery but the most important question is always why they gathered in the joint in the first place. The obvious second question is that if the conditions within the joint had been favourable to the accumulation of debris in the past, what treatment was going to be introduced which cou prevent a recurrence of the trouble

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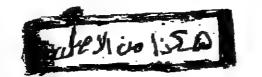
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In their search for catwalk cachet, fashion designers are plundering the aristocracy to find the right breed of supermodel. Grace Bradberry reports

dour for aristocratic models shows no signs of fading. Attitude is what designers are after, and they have decided that it is most reliably to be found in the pages of Debrett's

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AZONE A

The big four are Stella Tennant, granddaughter of the Duchess of Devonshire and hence a Mitford; Iris Palmer, daughter of Sir Mark Palmer, the gypsy baronet, and Lady Catherine Palmer. the younger sister of Lord Glenconner; Honor Fraser, the sister of Lord Lovar, head of the Fraser clan; and, lower down the modelling hierarchy, a newcomer, Jasmine Guinness, great-granddaughter of Diana Mosley, nee

What these girls get up to is the talk of the modelling world, just as gossip about Naomi, Kate and Helena dominated the early part of the decade. Only this week Honor Fraser had the fashion crowd dashing for their mobiles when it was announced that she had left Storm, the agency that helped to propel her to stardom, and signed with Select, which represents Stella Tennant.

On Tuesday, Storm issued a statement with the tantalising line: "Directors felt a time for change had arrived that would be mutually beneficial to both parties." One suspects that there must have been unpleasantness for Storm to view the departure of a high-earning model as "beneficial". Select is saying little, and Honor is in Japan, shooting an advertising campaign for Comme des Garçons. Industry insiders, however, say that Honor had become increasingly unhappy at being pigeon-holed as a demure English rose (as opposed, presumably, to a more spiky Scottish thistie). The really big-money contracts -Chanel. Armani, Jil Sander were going to pricklier girls such as Stella.

Honor has a steely determination to make money. When her father died in 1994, her brother inherited a cottage on the inverness-shire estate and a E7 million debt. Honor is aware that the name Fraser has cachet but little cash attached and has declared: I'm in modelling because I want to make lots of money."

What Honor knows, and what Jasmine is discovering. is that it is not enough to be tall, aristocratic and striking. market niche. Honor, Stella and Iris are only alike in pedigree. Each has a very different style both in front of. and away from, the camera. On the catwalk. Honor's

leg movements infuriate onlookers. But off it, she is all self-effacing charm, an expert networker with a weather eye on the next job. Stella Tennant, the most successful of all, was a punk princess with a nose ring when she was first "discovered" by Isabella Blow, the eccentric and well-connected Vogue stylist. Cold and undemonstrative on the carwalk, her reputation off it is as

something of an inverted snob. The last of the triumvirate. Iris Palmer, exudes moneyed bohemianism - not to mention a very bolshie catwalk attitude. She has a tendency to treat shoots as a bit of lark, and one stylist recalls her arriving two hours late. If any of them gives the impression of being a wild child, it is Iris. Jasmine's "attitude" is as yet undefined. At castings she not

> The more disdain these girls show the higher their value will go'

only eschews aristocratic hauteur, but also the more widespread modelling froideur. chatting away with little apparent awareness of the fashion world's convention that models should say little and remain aloof.

She could be seen at the last Chanel ready-to-wear show --her first in Paris - a few paces behind Stella Tennant, but though both have the big Mittord eyes, the similarity ends there. Until Philip Treacy's London show in February, they had not even met. We're second cousins twice removed or something very obscure," says Jasmine.

They have not become bosom friends — the modelling world has a strict hierarchy and Jasmine, who signed to Models I last August, is still making her way through the

Nevertheless. 20-year-old Jasmine's arrival amounts to a trend among Mitfords - and a curious one at that, when Diana, Debo et al were famously outspoken. It is difficult to imagine Nancy Mitford, say, gliding down the catwalk in a pair of big knickers. uttering not a word as "Non-

The fashion world's ar- haughty look and horse-like U photographers heckled from the back. Still less can one picture Jasmine's greatgrandmother, Diana, the most beautiful of the Mitford sisters - and arguably the most controversial - submitting herself to the gaze of the fashion horde. The third daughter of the eccentric Baron Redesdale, she was described by James Lees-Milne, a family friend, as "the most divine adolescent - a goddess, more immaculate, more celestial than Botticelli's

> t the age of 18, she married Bryan Guinness, later Lord Moyne, for whom she bore two sons, Jonathan and Desmond (lasmine's grandfather, and the founder of the Irish Georgian Society).

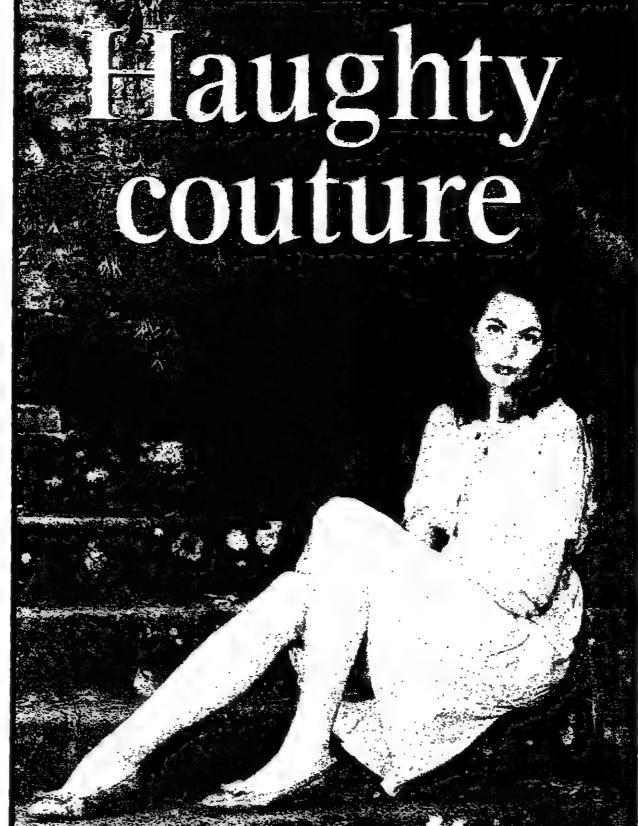
> But though as a couple they enhanced still further when their friend Evelyn Waugh dedicated his lirst novel. Vile Bodies, to them - Diana found Bryan dull. In 1932, she fell in love with Sir Oswald Mosley, then married, and to the horror of her family, she left her husband for Sir Oswald, marrying him in Berlin in 1936 in a ceremony attended by Hitler. (Cimmie, Oswald's wife, had died in 1933.)

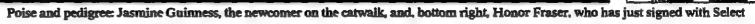
Oswald and Diana were interned during the war. Sir Oswald died in 1980, and Lady Mosley lives in Orsay, outside Paris, effectively as an exile. She is still reviled in some quarters, not least because she will keep insisting that Hitler was an interesting man to

Succeeding generations have been less controversial, but their private lives have followed a similarly bumpy path. Her late grandmother, Marie-Gabrielle von Urach of Württemberg, was divorced from her grandfather in 1981. and her own parents, Liz Casey and Patrick Guinness. are also divorced. Jasmine grew up at Leixlip Castle, the home of her grandfather Des-

There is a tendency among bright young things with famous names to try to distance themselves from the family legacy. Either they insist that it has not given them a leg up, or they try to dissociate themselves from elements of the family's past. Even Stella Tennant, who is generally proud to be a Mittord, has occasionally felt obliged to disdain the snobbisme of her lasmine is unusual in that

she seems to embrace the legacy. In Paris she staved with her aunt Charlotte Mosley, editor of the recent edition





Waugh and Nancy Mitford. Jasmine would also rather spend time with her aunt and uncle than visit model haunts in the evening: "They're very kind, and I'm usually just too tired to go out."

A more general ennui appars to be built into Jasmine's character. Asked by Hello! magazine whether she might not be simply a wild child dabbling in fashion, she replied wearily: "Listen, compared to my family, I'm

straight. What could I do to rebel? They've done every-

It is not surprising then that she has found a kindred spirit in a scion of the rock aristocracy. Jesse James Wood, son of Ronnie Wood of the Rolling When Jasmine is in London. they share a house in Richmond, wallowing in premature domestic bliss.

There is a lot to live up to -

however, seems sanguine about her great-grandmother's invidious reputation and expresses nothing but admiration: "She's very interesting, a real character — so elegant, always immaculate. She's a real inspiration to me. She's very stylish, and still very beautiful."

From her parents, she inherited a certain bohemian style: They weren't so much glam-

But she is in London less afterwards she signed to Modand less as her career begins to take off. She first modelled at the age of ten, when her uncle Perry Ogden photographed her for a Laura Ashley adver-tising campaign. Then, in 1994, during her final year as a ege. Dublin, she signed to Eddie Shanahan's agency in ireland. There followed a oneyear stint at Winchester Coll-

ege of Art, but she left,

Is is unlikely she will cause a grand scandale in the way her

Cold: Stella Tennant

great-grandmother did. These days it is harder to shock, and she will be flogging her social pedigree and inherited beauty the emitvalent of the f silver - in a highly competitive marketplace.

if her fellow Debrett girls are anything to go by. the more disdain she displays, the

Carving a career out of murder, betrayal and adultery

n a Thursday afternoon, Susan Isaacs and her husband, Elkan Abramowitz, a high-profile Manhattan lawyer, are preparing to be actors in a murder mystery weekend a few hours from their Long Island home. In the drama, which other guests will attempt to solve, she will don an old mackintosh to play an FBI agent. He is about to comb the house for beads and a peace-symbol T-shirt to play a radical left-

Both hasten to say that the weekend is just a bit of fun with friends in a beautiful retreat in the hills. But for Isaacs, deception and mystery are also the subject of her daily life. She has made her name as one of America's most popular novelists through her insight into betrayal, adultery, and the tensions under the surface of apparently happy families.

Her seventh novel, Lily White, published in Britain today and soon to be made into a film, is a detective story, like many of her previous books. But in contrast to writers who simply spin an elaborate puzzle, she makes murder a believable part of ordinary lives.

The heroine, Lee White, a criminal lawyer, is battling to defend a man who tricks women out of their savings by promising marriage, and who is accused of murdering his latest victim. That story is interleaved with the tale of Lee's escape from her lower middle-class. Jewish family into the apparent haven of marriage to a handsome, charming son of old-money Establishment. She uncovers the truth about her client at the Susan Isaacs's first book had all the luck a debut novel could have, from being chosen by Book of the Month Club to a film deal within days of publication. Interview by Bronwen Maddox

same time as the reality of her marriage and family is thrust upon her. The tale is threaded with the satirical

observation, particularly of women's small deceptions, that has made isaacs's reputation. From the waist down, she was heavy, bell-bottomed, like an accessory made for a boat, weighted not to tip over in rough weather. Thus shaped, she had wrapped a giant chiffon scari around the waist of her bathing suit, but a random breeze had uncovered a hefty hip and a huge, dimpled thigh."

But although Isaacs credits Lee with

her own ability to see through such ruses, her moral is that common sense and selfknowledge do not guarantee a happy life. People take for granted the bonds of family, marriage, children and work at

As they take for granted social status.

One of the themes is the bewilderment of Anglo-Saxon Protestants as they are eclipsed by more vigorous ethnic groups, their mansions crumbling as the trust funds dwindle. She observes: "Lee, who had been raised to revere the upper-class god of genteel shabbiness, could not stop herself from noting that there was a profound difference between a threadbare Chippendale settee and a toilet dripping brown water on to a rust stain that had eaten through the tile floor." Above all, though, her tale is about the



Susan Isaacs makes murder a believable part of otherwise ordinary lives

betrayal felt by women who grew up expecting their lives to model the experience of their parents and who find that their dream of a Fifties-style marriage to one partner, forever, is an illusion.

In the last quarter of a century there has been a revolution in women's lives. and part of the price of freedom is pain, not getting what you want or expect," she says. "It means not putting up with a miserable marriage, with things that a freer but unpredictable future.

restrict you emotionally, but it may also mean giving up the old idea of true love."

British publishers have tended to market her in the romantic novel category. "Like a cerebral Judith Krantz," she says. But her themes - and the detail of her observations - have more in common with Joanna Trollope: women stepping aside from the certainties and

claustrophobia of family life, in return for

subjects does not spring from a precarious personal life. Now 53, she has been married for 28 years. "Watching men my age go off with women in their twenties or thirties, or even forties, you'd be a fool not to ask 'can this happen to me?' But the truth is we have a lovely marriage. He has never not interested me. He is intelligent, he doesn't accept the conventional wisdom, he is analytical, kind, funny, i really bucked out." bramowitz has represented

Her perceptiveness in handling these

Woody Allen in his battle with Mia Farrow, and echoes of that warfare flicker through the book. Isaacs says: "I certainly did not do it consciously, but life intrudes. The pain of losing a child is so overwhelming." She will not discuss how much she

earns, saying only: "It's very nice for a lawyer's wife." Their pillared, red-brick house is in Port Washington, one of the more comfortable towns within commuting range of Manhattan; they also have a

small house on Long Island. But Isaacs seems surprised at the reliability of her domestic pleasures. She admits to a fear that it will be taken away. and says her feeling of being an outsider, 'always expecting to be thrown out", is behind her desire to write fiction.

Isaacs did not set out to be a writer. "I

wasn't one of those exquisitely sensitive children who kept a journal and recorded every thought. My only thought for the future was hopefully one day someone would want to marry me. But actually in college no one did, so I had to get a job."

The job, which she loved immediately. was at Seventeen magazine. After her marriage, she experimented with speechwriting for local Democrats. But it was not until her mid-thirties, when her children were three and six, that she finally embarked on her first novel, after a year of seizing any domestic diversion to avoid the task. "I decorated lampshades, made puff pastry; no matter what we had, it had to be en croute."

As she puts it "Compromising Positions had all the luck a first novel could have." It was chosen by Book of the Month Club, leading within days to a film deal; each of the following books has also been a bestseller in the United States.

For her next novel, she is departing from the detective format. "I want to show two really fine Americans, as good as this country can turn out, and try to describe what sets us apart from other countries," she says.

Those are grand themes, but in a sense. Isaacs has already found one answer: optimism in the face of uncertainty. Once you break the pattern you expected your life to follow "you may not live happily ever after", she says. But by accepting something different, she argues, "you can

still live contentedly ever after". ● Lily White, by Susan Isaacs, published by Michael Joseph at £15.99 today

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Why Scots Tories won't conform

Magnus Linklater says the party is in open rebellion

electoral landscape as we have seen since 1979. Nothing in Scotland is quite as it should be, and the opinion polis reflect the general bewilderment: one, published yesterday in the Herald, shows the Tories, mired in sleaze, plunging to one of their lowest ratings ever - 12 per cent. The other, in The Scotsman, has them unaffected by the mudslinging, and even regaining lost ground — up to 22 per cent. Both cannot be right, and though one explanation is that the latter has been adjusted to take account of anti-Tory bias, while the former is notoriously volatile, there is evidence of

severe election-strain. Here is the anomaly: Scottish Labour, once the most robustly independent of all the party's fieldoms, is now immaculately disciplined, firmly controlled from headquarters. politically correct in organisation and policy. The Scottish Conservative Party, once the creature of Central Office, is in a state of rebellion. Having engineered the resignation of its chairman. Sir Michael Hirst, a group of its more intransigent members has shown its muscle, and could

yet wreak more havoc. These disaffected Tories want a larger say in their own affairs, more autonomy, more power - a bit like Scotland itself.

still dog Mr Major would be well advised to the Tories

find out what is going on. Last time the Tories in Scotland were so clearly at loggerheads, in 1990. the present Secretary of State. Michael Forsyth, a convinced Thatcherite, was forced to stand down as party chairman. Those events presaged the demise of Margaret Thatcher herself. Some of the ferocity of that extraordinary period, when the then Scottish Secretary Malcolm Rifkind. representing the centre of the party, found himself being undermined by the right-wing Forsyth camp, can be seen in the present stirrings. Things are different in scale this time around, but equally hazardous. Then, it was the Tory grassroots organisation that turned en masse against a chairman they regarded as too radical. This time, it is a small but dangerous minority that has rebelled against the hierarchy. Sir Michael stood for the status quo, the hold-steady tendency which believes in playing safe. He owed his. appointment to John Major, and his loyalty earned him a knighthood. But it was that loyalty and that ambition which made him so greatly disliked; his opponents were

lingering enemies — which is why Mr Major should listen to the rumblings. The party in Scotland, like the party as a whole, needs to move forward, to develop new ideas if it is to survive. Michael Forsyth knows that It was his suggestion that an entirely separate Scottish manifesto should be launched yesterday. the first time the Conservatives have done so in 18 years.

steamrollered, dissent was dis-

couraged. Bruised egos make

ohn Major ventures north today to find as strange an can promote themselves vigornusly as a Scottish party rather than just a branch of the UK organisation, their stock will continue to fail hence some of his more romantic ideas, such as returning the Stone of Destiny to Scotland and citing the Declara-tion of Arbroath in support of

the Tory cause.

None of that will amount to much, however, if the rebels continue their destructive campaign. It would be ironic if Mr Forsyth himself were knocked off course by a splin-ter group within his own party. Once it was he who tituted the splinter.

Mr Major will have the chance to catch up on all this when he arrives in the Dumfries constituency today. The candidate there. Struan Stevenson, was once a convinced devolutionist. As such he was always on the fringes of the party, until a late conversion to Unionism won him the Dumfries nomination in succession to Sir Hector Monro. The message is clear: to make progress in the party, you need to conform. But Scotland is not a conforming kind of place, and it is precisely this kind

of inflexibility that has lost the Tories support. They should be con-Rumours fident enough to tolerate debate instead of more of insisting that only the yes-men will find favour. revelations

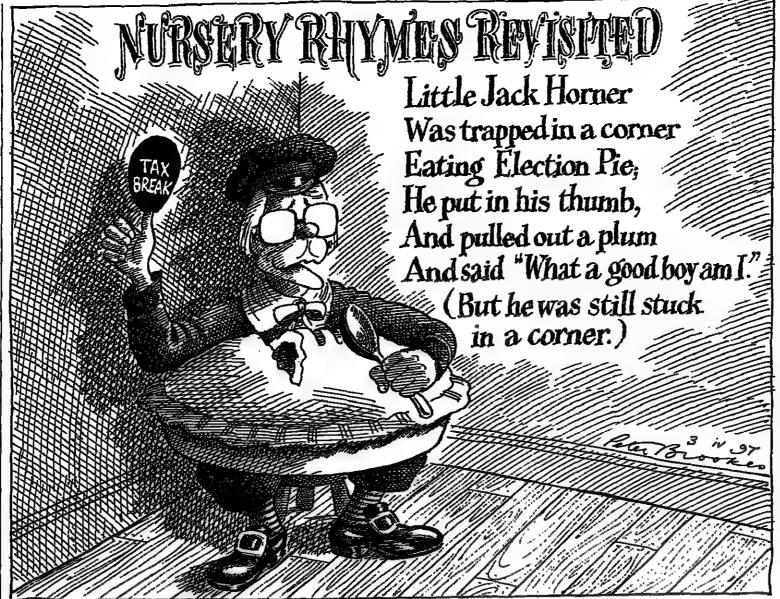
Labour, which unveils its own manifesto today, is not immune to similar charges. So far.

by contrast with the Tories, it has had an easy ride, and its standing in both polls demonstrates the strength of its position. At 53 per cent in one and 47 in the other, it can afford to gloat quietly. But it too will need to watch its back after some fairly ruthless power-play from the new Labour faction which stitched up the recent elections to its party executive in Scotland, ensuring that the Blair tendency now dominates the organisation. There are some bruises here as well, which could spell

he struggling parties are the Nationalists and the Liberal Democrats. For all of its bravado, the SNP desperately needs a big break if it is to advance much beyond its present standing. And the Liberal Democrats, who traditionally punch above their weight in Scotland when it comes to representation at Westminster, really do look squeezed this time around.

All eyes, however, are still

on the Scottish Tories. Rumours of further revelations continue to dog them, and there may be more sleaze to come. But more important than the gossip and innuendo will be how the party handles itself over the next three weeks. All is not yet lost. If it can demonstrate the strength of purpose it needs to confront its own dissidents, unite around a strongly Scottish agenda, and home in on the weaknesses of its opponents rather than its own, then it may find that 22 per cent is



Is it Major's manifesto?

I it is expected to win the general election, I do not think the Conservative manifesto will succeed. As I read it, I tried to put myself into the mind of a floating voter who was thinking of switching to new Labour. Would such a voter be likely to be persuaded by this manifesto to return to voting Conservative? I did find some persuasive themes, but on the whole I felt that an intention to vote Labour would not be changed. What this manifesto will do is reinforce any intention to vote

Conservative that already exists. For the 30 per cent of the electorate who were already pretty certain to vote Conservative, it will be a largely reassuring document. Its title says "You can only be sure with the Conservatives". If you already are a Conservative, that must be true, though it does remind one of Stanley Baldwin's 1929 election slogan of "Safety First"; in 1929 the Conserva-

The worst sections are those on

Europe and the constitution, as one might have feared. The Conservatives have stuck loyally to their wet compromise on the single currency. We believe it is in our national interest to keep our options open to take a decision on a single currency when all the facts are before us. If a single currency is created, without sustainable convergence, a British Conservative Government will not be part of it. If. during the course of the next Parliament, a Conservative Party were to conclude that it was in our national interest to join a single currency, we have given a guarantee that no such decision would be implemented unless the British people gave their express approval in a referendum." That is indeed "letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would', like the poor cat in the adage". On

Europe this is a poor cat of a The constitutional section is even worse when it comes to the section on Parliament. There the manifesto moves from mere indecision to the assertion of falsehood. "Parliament -alongside the Crown and the legal system - is one of the three key institutions that uphold our constitution. The supremacy of Parliament is fundamental to our democracy, and the guarantee of our freedoms. The last 17 years have seen many changes to strengthen Parliament and make it

more effective . . . " The last 17 years,

Kenneth Clarke has influenced the text for the worse, but the Prime Minister's

placatory tones can also be heard

and particularly the last five, have seen a massive transfer of power from Parliement to the European Union; the single currency, which the manifesto suggests could be "in our national interest ... when all the facts are before us" would take monetary policy, exchange policy, and a large part of budgetary policy away from

If the Conservatives believe that "the supremacy of Parliament is fundamental to democracy, and the guarantee of our freedoms," they should not have signed or enacted the Treaty of Maastricht, and they should not continue

to keep open the single currency question. It is true that Labour policy is somewhat worse, and that Liberal Democrat policy is worse even than

that of Labour, but there will be honest, old-fashioned. democratic Conservatives who, if they reach page 49, will be so sickened by the hypocrisy of that paragraph that they will be tempted to go and vote for the Referendum

These are the worst depths of the manifesto. The rest of it contains nothing half so offensive and a great deal that most people would regard as reasonable and desirable. The economic section leans over, as Conservative manifestos used to do in the 1950s, in the direction of tax cuts which will affect the largest possible number of voters. The standard rate of income tax will be brought down, if possible, to 20p; the marginal rate will not be similarly reduced, though it will not actually be raised above 40p. There will, by the end of the next Parliament, be a lot of people who have risen into the top bracket for tax. The bottom layers of 40p taxpayers are not particularly rich, and the Conservatives do not propose any benefit

The pledge that "we will continue

to reduce the burden of capital gains tax and inheritance tax as it is prudent to do so" is also minimalist in character. One does not have to believe in Reaganomics to see that a 40 per cent capital gains tax, the highest in the world, is well above the level which would produce the most revenue. The Conservatives profess to be the party of small business, of property-owning democracy and of wider share-ownership, yet the rate of capital gains tax is higher

than it was when they came to office What one does see in this manifesto is the gravitational pull of a powerful political planet. This planet is anti-Thatcherite both on Europe and

on economic policy.

It is not really a Conservative planet at all. It shares with the Labour Party the underlying assumption that taxes can effectively be used to reduce inequalities of income, and that the single currency is either desirable in itself or might at least be a price worth paying. No one doubts the name of this big planet; the Jupiter of the Tory sky is Kenneth Clarke.

There is, however, a quieter

and less threatening voice

which has also influenced the manifesto, and might have done better to dominate it. That is the voice of John Major himself. Sometimes one suddenly finds oneself warming to the Prime Minister: [can well understand why old and loyal Tories love him. Who but he would publish a manifesto with this quirky pledge in bold italic sanserif type: "We will require all government agencies to apply for chartermarks"? Yet running through the manifesto there is a coherent John Major policy. I have no doubt he believes in it. On each of the key issues of social policy, he wants to move towards what the manifesto calls "greater self-gover-

ment of their own affairs"; his vision of the National Health Service "is one in which hospitals and family doctors gain greater power to run their own affairs"; he wants the young to build themselves better pensions; he wants to "shift power and wealth back to working families and away from the State". These proposed transfers of power from the State to the individual or

full responsibility for the manage-

the local provider seem to be the heart of the manifesto, and they are no doubt the heart of John Major's personal political philosophy. If he had called the manifesto "Give power back to the people", he would have made the point clearer, but it is clear enough. The Labour Party is in favour of some devolution of power, in Scotland, Wales and local govern-ment, but it is opposed to independent school management, to fundholding GPs, to big cuts in family taxation, and, so far as one can make out, to Peter Lilley's admirable

pension proposals as well. Both major parties claim to want to transfer power from the State; both see themselves as anti-centrist. But the Conservative manifesto goes much further towards the individual, and the local, and Labour tends to transfer power inside what are still very big administrative structures. Those who believe that "small is beautiful" will be attracted by John Major's social policies. There is even a pledge to give "more power to

parish councils". This has been a strange administration, sometimes too limited in its ideas, sometimes recovering from unforced errors. Perhaps one can make one judgment of this manifesto. Leaving aside Europe - and I do not really believe John Major would take Britain into the single currency in the next Parliament — this is a wholly unthreatening document. If the Conservatives were to be re-elected, they would be committed to a certain kind of jog-trot good government, inspired by John Major's respect for individual decision-making, which the British would probably appreciate if they came to experience it. If I were to decide the awards. I would be happy to give the manifesto at least 65 chartermarks, if only I knew what they were. It leaves the somewhat melancholy feeling that we could do a lot worse, and that we probably shall,

Open the book of summer

Quentin Letts on

the herald of a

season's sport

o each race belongs its own sure sign of spring. Roughly around this time of year the eskimo willemerge from hibernation, take a squint at the watery sun, and realise that the igloo has begun to melt. In the African veld, the ruddy-faced pioneer lifts a licked finger to the easterly trade wind and discerns that heck, man, the savanna scrubs are sproutin', while in distant Ecuador the Oriente's humidity starts to rise, a jaguar yawns, sweet song birds hasten north.

In England, summer's approach is signalled by a flash of yellow in the long grasses. This is not the long necked rise of the daffodil, nor the glimpse of a scouting bumble bee, evocative though his buzzing can be, Spring's yellow vest is worn, instead. by Wisden, the cricketers' almanack, and herald of a season's sport. The . 1997 edition, with its trademark yellow cover, is published today, and will be. greeted across the country as proof. that winter has passed.

It is so much more than the dry publication of a book of facts and figures. When you first open a new hardback-Wisden, there is that soft creak of the spine which matches the sound of anciient cricket boots under the turn of aneager heel in the April nets. It is, furthermore, the creak that will be heard from numerous knees when the more advanced members of the village XI, with a tug on their flannels and a rub? of leathery palms, crouch down for the first time in the slips on the opening day of the season.

A familiar whiff borne by the Easter breeze? Ahhh, linseed oil, used to season the willow of the bat. The rituals of . preparation for cricket open slowly. like petals on a hesitant tulip. First comes the rumble of the lawnmower on the square, with certain regional variations. (Wisden reports that at a leading cricket ground in Ethiopia the outfield is trimmed by a groundsman with a sickle, who takes away the grass clippings in a sack to feed to his donkey.) Cutting complete, there tollows the squeak of the lime-whitener. barrow, which marks out the wicket. accompanied by the muttered groans of the ground-staff as they bend to measure the popping crease. Then it is the crunch of studs on pavilion floors, the sleigh-bellish tinkle as fumbling fingers jingle pad straps, and the hollow clacking of a ball being bounced up and down on the driving spot of a trusty Gunn & Moore.

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From Cumberland to Cornwall there will be salaams as team. mates espy each other for the. first time since September and sympathetic laughter as the stretching powers of club colours are tested on windy "two-sweater days" at country grounds. At Hutton Cranswick, Yorkshire. Purdey the golden retriever will: be back on duty, running after welfthwacked balls. Last season he found -50 lost balls, and was quite properly

made a club vice-president of the club, These are not just preparations for: the great contest. England is limbering up for her summer months, with their promise of Pinnn's-flavoured afternoons in dappled shade. If you are not sated by the prospect of the Saturday of the Lord's Test (Australia this: year!) or the glories of watching Gloucestershire at Cheltenham's festive College Ground - Flowers Ale and thick-wedge cheese and Marmite, sandwiches for tea - then savour the calendar of alternatives: horsey Hickstead in late May, with its braying girls and spanking-tight jodhpurs. Or for a different class of trouser, the musty corduroys at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Or savour the gay ribbons of the Henley Royal. Regatta at the prow of July, or jolly, Cowes Week, with its gusts of ginny zest. It all stretches before us, with the Braemar Highland Games in September so far away that the caber seems no bigger than a toothpick.

For the ex-pat, these can be difficult days. From New York, for instance, J write in the spirit of the Dickensian urchin pressing his nose against the sweet-shop window, looking in with longing. We hear that you have had warm weather, that the deckchairs: have been de-cobwebbed and that the wild garlic is coming. One tries to explain these delights to the foreign; mind, but one fails. The pleasures of wasps in your cider, of cold collation lunchtimes and Branston Pickle baps are tougher to translate than the battle! scenes in Herodotus. The snap-quick' mind of the New Yorker struggles to comprehend the attraction of Morecambe Bay sand between the toes and-Harrogate ioffee-shop small talk or a wet June day under the garden fère Grange

Wisden recalls the struggle faced by Philip Halden, the British businessman kidnapped in Colombia who was held in the jungle by guerrillas for eight months and tried to teach his captors the noble game. Doughtily he wielded a machete to carve a bat and wooden balls. He introduced the desperadoes to the concept of the googly, the despair of the no-ball, the eestasy of the lofted six. They tried, he tried, how they all tried. But when, by chance, the home-made hat snapped' one day, the hostage-takers had to confess to their captive that, sorry, senor, they preferred soccer. Theheroic Halden was not encouraged to.

carve another club. Rejoice, for cricket is back, and the English summer has arrived. But keep it to yourselves. No one else will

Mayhem

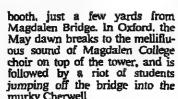
DRUNKEN students are the talk of Oxford Town Hall, where the election office is briefing its staff on how to keep the mayhem of May Day celebrations away from the polling booths.

For most Oxford residents under the age of 25. May I is a day of drunken debauchery. Pubs open before it is light and a good proportion of the town has been up all night toasting the beginning of

Never before has a general election been called on May I precisely. and unfortunately for the election office, polling booths will open at 7am - just as the students reach

their zenith. "We almost wrote to John Major begging him not to hold the election on May 1," says Roy Boyland, Oxford's elections officer. "Presiding officers have been made aware of the potential problems of high jinks. They have been told that if a person should appear not to be in a fit state, he should be refused a ballot paper."

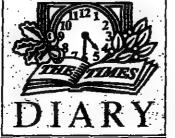
One flashpoint is likely to be the polling booth for Oxford Central, which stands, unhappily, next to The Bear pub - one of the city's most popular institutions. Another will be the St Clement's ward



Larry Adler, the 83-year-old harmonica player, suffered a setback on his present tour of Australia



Young Oxford voter



when he unpacked his bags on arrival and discovered he had left his harmonicas behind in England. After a frantic phone call, the instruments were sent superexpress, and reached him just before he set foot on stage. Fortunately, the old boy did not forget his heart pills.

Clocking off

FROM next weekend. Parisians will be only too aware of the approach of the millennium. On Saturday at midnight, exactly 1,000 days before 2000 begins, a giant illuminated clock adorning the Eif-

The installation is 100ft across and 35ft high, weighs 50 tons and took 9,000 man-hours to construct. It will count down the days until the mother of all new year cele-

brations, while at the same time offering consolation to those lamenting the disappearance of the city's other millennium clock, the Genitron. This was a hi-tech device which counted the seconds until the year 2000 at the Pompidou Centre, before it was removed and put in storage recently while the crumbling museum undergoes renovation.

Steer clear

WHILE Labour Party managers borrow flashy sports cars from nightclub owners to ferry around their high command, Lord Cranborne, the whisky-smooth Conservative patriarch, is providing some more old-fashioned transport for needy Tories.

Yesterday, Edward Vaizey -Ken Clarke lookalike and Tory candidate for Bristol East - hitched along to Cranborne Chase. where he took delivery of an admirably high Tory old Land Rover.

Eco trip

fel Tower will be switched on by GREEN DRAGON, a group of 40 the Mavor, Jean Tiberi.

GREEN DRAGON, a group of 40 eco-activists all called Potato (who changed their names to evade the bailiffs), are planning to invade the grounds of Harewood in Leeds. These ideological cousins of the unwashed Swampy are whining about plans to build a set for the soap-opera Emmerdale on the Harewood estate, formerly the property of Lord Harewood, the Queen's first cousin, and now owned by his son, David Lascelles.

"We are baffled by these rumours," says a gobsmacked Las-celles. "We are not building a bypass or a new runway - we plant trees at Harewood, we don't destroy them. Harewood works hard to protect the English countryside, and money from Emmerdale will fund further conservation." In short, come in nut-



"If we lose, it's about haves and have-nots: those who have seats in the Lords and those who haven't'

too," he replied, quickly evading a John Gummer fiasco. "Perhaps McDonald's should open a new line for dogs." And stinker

munchers, you're barking up the

Yesterday out on the stump.

David Blunkett, Labour's educa-

tion spokesman, visited a Mc-

Donald's burger training camp in

Manchester, where cameramen

asked him to allow his guide-dog

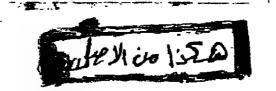
Lucy to gobble a Big Mac. "Lucy is

on a strict vegetarian diet - twice

a day - and a very healthy one

DOWN at the Fulton Fishmarket in New York these days, the mood is blacker than a shark's eyeball, after a spate of sackings due to alleged infiltration by organised crime. An unfortunate time, then, for the crew of the BBC's Everyman

to start filming. When the presenter, Anne Mac-Gregor, arrived she was hit full in the face by a sea bass, dead and beginning to smell. "It came as quite a shock," says Miss MacGregor. "It was probably an expression of the anger the sacked men's remaining colleagues felt."



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MAJOR'S MANIFESTO

A cautious but coherent package from the Tories

With a picture of John Major on the cover and another on the first page, the Conservative manifesto published yesterday is an embodiment of the Prime Minister's personality and approach. It presents a more coherent package of ideas than its 1992 counterpart and its watchword is caution. If the Conservatives are re-elected, voters can expect a leisurely next five years with few truly radical policies and a modest amount of legislation.

Much of the manifesto is taken up with what the Tories will not do and with what they have already done. Keen to run on his record. Mr Major wastes no opportunities to remind readers of what his administration has achieved so far. In the style of Baldwin's 1929 "Safety First" campaign, the Prime Minister asks voters to elect him more on the basis of the past than the future. In 1929 Labour beat the Tories, and Baldwin's party lost 159 seats.

The themes of this year's manifesto are good ones. There is a welcome, if belated, conversion to the cause of supporting the family through the tax system. Transferable allowances for husbands or wives who stay at home to care for a child or relative are a good way of recognising the huge amount of unpaid work done within the family, often at some saving to the State.

The emphasis on independence rather than dependence — through policies on pensions. Innoverse pensions, long-term care and savings helps to address the problem of increasing insecurity brought by global competition and fast-changing technology. If voters cannot trust employers to give them a job for life or future governments to honour the pension promises of their predecessors, their best hope is for the State to make it easier for them to provide for themselves.

On Europe, the manifesto is still equivocal. The language has been hardened to make the position look harder, but the changes are cosmetic. A promise not to include legislation on a single currency in the first Queen's Speech, for instance, does not necessarily preclude a new government joining EMU in the first wave. But it is encouraging to see that the Tories would actively try to prevent other countries going ahead in 1999 if the convergence criteria had not been safely met.

Neither here nor in any other area apart from the constitution have the Conservatives created much clear blue water. Transferability of tax allowances is a policy that Labour could just as easily have proposed. The aspiration to reduce the basic rate of income tax to 20p can be set beside Labour's aim of a 10p starting rate. Indeed, many of the new policies here have been suggested by Labour, such as targets for school standards, speedier criminal justice for juveniles

and an independent food safety body. The Conservatives are also vulnerable to the criticisms that they make so often of Labour's plans. Where is the money going to come from? It is unrealistic to suppose that Mr Major's tax-cutting aspirations will be paid for from economic growth. More likely is that, as in the past, he will raise taxes elsewhere in order to finance cuts in the basic rate: or that he will have to reduce public spending further. If he intends to do the latter, he owes it to voters to spell out which areas will be hit by lower spending

and what the effects on services will be. For those of the electorate who have been impressed by the past five years of Conservative rule, this manifesto will provide reassurance: they are likely to see more of the same. But Mr Major has barely begun to persuade those who believe that it is time for a change. To judge by our MORI poll today, those who need persuading are still well in

WASHINGTON RENDEZVOUS

Clinton can be the catalyst for renewed dialogue

Once again, the road to peace in the Middle East runs through Washington. Binyamin Netanyahu will meet President Clinton there on Monday. King Hussein held talks at the White House earlier this week. Yassir Arafat has also been a recent visitor.

It is the swiftly scheduled arrangement between Mr Clinton and Mr Netanyahu that has captured most attention. Some observers suggest it might lead to a new American initiative. Others believe that the President will take this opportunity to force concessions out of a reluctant Prime Minister. Neither suggestion is very practical nor especially desirable.

Mr Clinton's personal commitment to the region is beyond doubt. During his first term it was the sole foreign policy issue with which he was consistently absorbed. That interest has intensified since his re-election. His Administration has been intimately involved in the detail of Israeli-Palestinian deliberations. American investment in the peace process is such that it would be a diplomatic disaster for the President if the whole structure collapsed. That telling truth explains Mr Clinton's enthusiasm for further discussions with Mr Netanyahu despite scant evidence that he can produce substantial results.

Whatever the advance publicity, Monday's meeting is unlikely to be acrimonious. The President has an instinctive sympathy for Israel and knows that Congress will disown him if he singles out Mr Netanyahu for criticism. Furthermore, he cannot contest the Prime Minister's assertion that terrorism must be disowned as a political instrument. Nor can Mr Clinton insist that Israel cease its construction of the Har Homa settlement as there is no chance of the Prime Minister capitulating. Reasoned

persuasion rather than public rebukes will maximise what American influence exists.

In the very short term, Mr Clinton must use the power of his office to succeed where in his Easter endeavour. Dennis Ross, the State Department's troubleshooter, could not. Little progress should be expected until Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat resume direct negotiations. The United States can press them both to abandon preconditions and return to business. It can also remind all sides that symbolic gestures carry significant weight. The Americans also have the standing to sponsor a summit between Mr Netanyahu and King Hussein.

The wider and more perplexing issue is what the parties should talk about. Mr Netanyahu has proposed a dramatic "escape forward". This would pre-empt the existing Oslo formula by abandoning the planned intermediate phases and open a dialogue on the final package between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority. American officials are excited but also concerned about the concept. On the one hand, it is the sort of bold step that would allow recent disagreements to be sidestepped and could radically change the entire atmosphere. On the other, it is not clear how matters could be rescued if those talks ended in failure.

American caution is understandable. Yet, the present Oslo timetable is so fragile and uncertain that it may prove impossible to follow. The realistic alternative to an escape forward is a cooling-off period not a swift return to the preceding format. Mr Clinton should now encourage Mr Netanyahu to outline the broad shape of his initial proposals if Mr Arafat and King Hussein accepted his invitation. That alone would justify their rendezvous in Washington.

THE LOO'S THE THING

Unless the playwright can protect his future fame

Councillors in North Yorkshire have voted for a last-minute reprieve for the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough, the lone outpost of the performing arts in one of Britain's bluffest seaside resorts. By inviting the theatre to apply for a £40,000 grant, the council has made available the minimum needed so that the theatre can qualify for a lottery capital enhancement grant of £175,000; without the combined sums. it would have been forced to close, a humiliation for the theatre that was expensively converted from a cinema and opened with civic pomp only a year ago.

Closure would have had national repercussions. For this provincial flagship of culture owes its existence, reputation and tourist attraction to Sir Alan Ayckbourn. Britain's most successful playwright, who has never forgotten the cradle of his drama career. All Sir Alan's plays - and he has written more than 50 - now have their premiere beside the North Sea. They bring to Scarborough the London critics, the buzz and the cash that is sorely needed to replace the dwindling receipts from holiday makers. Sir Alan has sunk some £416,000 of his not inconsiderable fortune into the theatre of which he is now a director, and believes it earns ten times the size of the town's £50,000

annual commitment. Scarborough, however, is not wholly enthusiastic about the enterprise that puts it on the thespian map. Yorkshiremen are famously careful with their money and have

down-to-earth notions of civic comfort. The council believes its money would be better spent on retaining 22 public lavatories. insisting that voters would take a more practical interpretation than actors of Hamlet's much thanks for this relief.

Sir Alan is outraged at such philistinism. He could, however, provide a simple denouement to the long-running drama of the theatre's finances: he could pay the difference himself. For playwrights as prolific, and professional, as Sir Alan a life on the stage proves very lucrative. If he were to endow his theatre in the round with a little more of his own good fortune, the budgetary whodunnit, which may otherwise return like The Mousetrap season after season, would

quickly reach the end of its run. Artists have often had to pay a high price for public honour, especially if that honour is bestowed on them by themselves. Authors pay to have their oeuvres privately printed. Amateur conductors have hired the entire Albert Hall to demonstrate their prowess with the baton. Actors, it is true, may achieve such a reputation that their workplaces are named in their honour: the Yvonne Arnaud in Guildford. Ashcroft in Croydon and the Gielgud in the West End. But the Saatchis, Guggenheims and Menuhins who found art galleries and music schools usually stump up a whacking sum. Sir Alan has suffered A Chorus of Disapproval over his theatre; he could, perhaps, contribute more than A Word from Our Sponsor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street. London El 9XN Telephone 6171-782 5000

Investigating and judging the moral conduct of MPs

From Sir Edward du Cann

Sir, Amid the intense publicity given to allegations against Messrs Tim Smith, Neil Hamilton and others (MPs for a few days more) I feel that three points need to be taken into

l. Following the original cash-forquestions affair the Prime Minister established the Nolan committee. This in turn led to the appointment of a Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Thus the machinery exists for investigating alleged corruption in Parliament, and the Prime Minister deserves credit for this.

2. Some of the evidence Sir Gordon Downey has received has been published - a clear contempt of Parliament. His conclusions, if he has reached them, are unknown. However, having worked with Sir Gordon for some years, when I was chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (1974-79) and of the Public Accounts Commission (1984-87), I have no doubt that his inquiry will have been thorough and accurate. The public can safely rely upon the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges to be made up of senior MPs in the new Parliament) to do its duty - whether its majority is Labout or Conser-

If any newly elected MP is judged to have behaved improperly he can be promptly disciplined, even expelled. Enough evidence has so far been published to show this as probability. Meantime, any parliamentary candidate who does not give adequate weight to this probability will deserve extra opprobrium if he is elected and

3. The authorities should consider promptly whether criminal action should be taken against the offeror of bribes to MPs, through which he sought to influence the parliamentary process. In one case, that of Mr Smith, both the recipient and the payer have admitted their actions. Thus there is surely enough prima facie evidence for action to be taken.

Mr Mohamed Al Fayed has already wasted parliamentary time and taxpayers' money by making a monstrous allegation against the Home Secretary which Sir Gordon has stated should be "authoritatively and

Controlling the car

publicly dismissed (report, March 7). Justice to be effective should be prompt. Action need not await the election of a new Parliament.

Yours faithfully. EDWARD du CANN, Les Heritiers, 9 Queen Elizabeth Il Street, Alderney, Channel Islands.

From Professor Patrick Minford

Sir, Mr Neil Hamilton, MP, argues (letter, March 29) that we should allow him to have a proper hearing. I agree. It would astonish me if a country famed for its pride in natural justice were to allow the hysteria and selfserving instincts rampant at election time to override this principle.

However, the logic of a proper election and the self-interest of the electorate not surprisingly also support the dictates of justice in this matter. This solely concerns individuals and therefore has no bearing on national policy, on which the electorate must require all parties to focus.

Why is Labour then so interested in diverting our attention? Could it be that their economic policies are in serious disarray, with Mr Blair seeking continuously to steal Conservative clothes while the rest of his party tries in recalcitrant disbelief to stay silent?

When will the people of this country wake up to these bizarre inconsistencies - and do they really wish to be fulled by irrelevancies into a credulity of Labour's New Toryism that on the face of it is quite incredible? It is time for the proper debate to start.

Yours faithfully PATRICK MINFORD. Liverpool Macroeconomic Research, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.

From Mr Philip K. Wray

Sir. I comment on the case of Mr Piers Merchant, MP, and the claims that he had an affair with a Soho club hostess (reports. March 28).

I do not believe that a person in any profession except the Church should be judged on their moral conduct, providing such conduct does not break the law. It is quite ridiculous for any political party to set themselves up as

guardians of the nation's moral welfare, Morality is a personal issue and will always remain so.

Mr Merchant has been an able constituency MP, and any alleged sexual dalliance should be a matter of private concern for him and his family. Those within the Conservative Party now calling for his resignation must ask themselves two questions: first, have they never been guilty of making an indiscreet decision in their lives, and second, do they really believe that the vast majority of voters will be influenced by Mr Merchant's alleged actions? If they can answer yes to both questions then I would suggest that they do not live in the real world and thus have no right to parliamentary

number of senior European politicians who have been the subject of press speculation over their sexual conduct have continued to lead active political careers. Perhaps, instead of condemning Mr Merchant, the Conservative Party should elevate him to a position of leadership and thus possibly improve their chances of re-

I am. Sir. PHILIP K. WRAY. 2 The Close. March 28.

From Mr Christopher Maguire

Sir, In his impatience with the media focus on sleaze (report, April I), Mr Major is in danger of forgenting that a healthy consequence of local democracy is that the locals may disagree and stand up to central authority. But he does acknowledge that ultimately

By contrast, new Labour deals ruthlessly with dissent within its party from whatever quarter. What is presented as strong leadership can become anti-democratic authoritarianism. Might this tendency manifest it-

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHÉR MAGUIRE, 15 Harston Road. Newton, Cambridge.

Jewish settlements in Jerusalem

From Mr Harley Sherlock From Sir Cyril Townsend, MP Sir, Graham Searieant complains of

an anti-motorist political consensus Traffic consensus hurtles along the road to nowhere", Business, March 27). But for three decades now the only discernible consensus appears to have been a tacit agreement that allows motorists to drive where and when they like, regardless of the impact on our health (atmospheric pollution), our quality of life (deteriorating environment) and our economic wellbeing (the cost of road congestion). The policy of successive govern-West Bank and Gaza Strip).

ments has been to leave traffic to control itself by its own congestion. It must be in the interests of everyone including motorists - that this be brought to an end.

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, made a move to do so in 1994 when, in his planning policy guidance note on transport, he called on local authorities to reduce the need to travel by encouraging developments such as superstores closer to where people live. The new Road Traffic Reduction Act is another step in the right direction.

Moves like these are designed to improve everyone's life, but they are often condemned as being anti-car. Such condemnation surely implies that the car has no place in a civilised society. This need not be the case, but it could easily become the accepted view if we fail to use our cars with more thought.

Yours faithfully HARLEY SHERLOCK. 13 Alwyne Place, Ni. April 1.

Driven to despair

From Ms Maureen Colguhoun Sir. How I sympathise with Catriona

Bevan, cleared of committing a "road rage" attack (report, March 28). She is absolutely right about road jealousy. and the dangers that it can cause.

All my motoring life I've been an MG enthusiast, but I finally, after seven MGs, became tired of being picked on by young men in battered old tradesman vans, and middle-aged executive men in almost any car you can name. Life became just too dangerous. I

have now settled for a nondescript, terribly boring car. It's like driving a comfortable settee, but at least I can drive around without the constant ego challenges of some male drivers. My MGs are just the stuff that

Yours faithfully. MAUREEN COLQUHOUN. South Knoll, Rydal Road, Ambleside, Cumbria. March 29.

dreams were made on.

Business letters, page 31

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

creating one. A series of settlements for Berleyheath (Conservative) was created, mainly on land taken Sir, In the course of this century, the Palestinian Arabs have been reduced from being the overwhelming majority of the population between the Jor dan and the Mediterranean to being a

minority seeking statehood in a mere built mainly on land taken from 20 per cent of their country. Mr Arabs and setting the seal on Israeli Charles Krauthammer ('Arafat is control of the city. fooling America", March 27) appears to be outraged that Yassir Arafat should even seek that much (ie, the The Palestinians are justified in

> city is the last word on the matter. Yours faithfully. CYRIL TOWNSEND (Director).

Arab-British Understanding, 21 Collingham Road, SWS. March 27.

Economic optimism

From Mr Roger Fox

hehest.

Sir. In the late 1960s, as economics students, we used to sit with our lecturers lamenting the failure of the UK economy to achieve the "virtuous circle" of economic success that the West German economy then enjoyed. Your report today that the current

believing that, in being prepared to ac-

cept the existence of the State of Israel

on the great majority of what they

consider to be their land, they have

given up enough and it is totally un-reasonable that they should be told that they must yield more at Israel's

The existing Jewish majority in

Jerusalem was created through a

noticy, zealously applied by successive

Israeli Governments since 1967, of

account deficit has fallen to £14 million (the best performance since 1985) completes all the recent evidence that at long last, 30 years later, the UK has achieved what so many governments tried to do and failed. We now have a successful economy and can look com-

And what has enabled the UK to do this? All those supply side and monetarist policies so derided by traditional Keynesian economists. These policies take a long time to bear fruit but successful they are if given the necessary time. Our best course of action is to intraduce more of them.

Yours faithfully. ROGER FOX. 53 The Avenue, Chiswick, W4. March 25.

Hong Kong handover

From Mr Dick Wilson

Sir. The people of Hong Kong were disenchanted with their retrocession to China before the Tiananmen killings in 1989, says Jonathan Mirsky Turning a blind eye on colony". March 20). But the possibility of a handover of

what democratic institutions existed in Hong Kong was sabotaged by the British colonial government's subsequent extension of the franchise for the Legislative Council in contravention of earlier agreements with China.

Yours sincerely, DICK WILSON. White Lodge. 67 Grove Lane, SE5. March 20.

Several American presidents and a

Brangwyn Drive, Brighton, East Sussex.

he has no power over them.

self in government?

from Arab owners, which raised the Jewish population from zero to around 170,000. Har Homa would complete the encirclement of the Arab areas of Jerusalem, plugging a gap between two settlements which were

Every Israeli Government since 1967 has declared that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel; equally, every Palestinian political organisation says that it should be the capital of an independent Palestinian state. The rest of the world is not bound to accept that Israel's assertion of mastery over the

Council for the Advancement of

Cost of a cone

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, I imagine it is not the quality of the £55,000 revolving neon cone struc-ture erected beside the NHS hospital at Newport, Isle of Wight, which has led doctors to turn their backs on it (report, March 28). Anything that is devised to raise the spirits must be seen as at least therapeutic.

It is the juxtaposition of the hospital and the cone, regardless of where the financing came from, that appears unpalatable to them by acting as a reminder of their impossible struggle with costs.

What a great shame that a work of art should again become the whipping boy. In my own case surgery has allowed me the time to make some small personal contribution to the visual arts and to become increasingly aware of its importance in a civilised world. Art, to me, is not something to be considered a luxurious extra; it is an essential part of our wellbeing, and must not be blamed for other shortcomings that may exist in our system.

Doctors perform remarkable feats to treat and repair us, where they can, to return us to a world where artistic achievement also has a place.

JOHN PITTUCK, Hillside Cottage. 62 Dunmow Road. Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. March 28.

From Mr Kenneth P. Armitage

Sir, It seems to me that Healing Arts. the organisation which commissioned the neon cone at Newport, is wide of the mark to suggest that it was not paid for with public money. Where on earth do they think money from the National Lottery comes from?

Yours faithfully, K. ARMITAGE. 6 Deben Valley Drive, Kesgrave, Sulfolk. March 28.

Future of the last airworthy Comet

From Lord Brabazon of Tara and Mr Aiastair Layzeli

Sir. We are delighted to learn that the Government's proposed sale at auction of the world's last airworthy de Havilland Comet is likely to be called off (report, March 28). Since 1963 this plane has flown for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency at Boscombe Down. It is the last flying example of its type and we firmly believe it should remain in Great Britain.

The Comet jet airliner's first flight. in July 1949, flowed from a recommendation of the wartime committee headed by the 1st Lord Brabazon of Tara, In May 1952, when BOAC operated the first regular jet passenger service from London to Johannesburg, Britain led the world. It was the Comet which inaugurated the first

transatlantic jet service in 1958, it changed the history of flying. We hope that the Secretary of State for Defence will now arrange a private treaty sale of the Comet to the National Air Pageant - a recently formed organisation currently applying to the Charity Commissioners for charitable status. The National Air Pageant would arrange for it to be kept flying in the skies over Britain, to appear at air shows where it could be enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people, and to be on view to the public.

Yours faithfully, BRABAZON of TARA ALASTAIR LAYZELL (Founder, The National Air Pageant), 68 Battersea High Street, SWII. March 28.

Racism in the law

From Mr Zia H. Rahman

Sir, Judge Crawford's disparaging remark giving offence to ethnic minorities (report, March 27) must surely discourage members of such minorities from entering the law. This "regrettable slip" does nothing to disabuse black and non-black people alike of what has perhaps become a common view: that our judiciary is breathtakingly behind the times and that its members lead lives far removed from the sphere of our own.

Things must change and there is some hope they will. The Lord Chan-cellor's swift and stern rebuke is to be applauded. Having recently returned from several years in the US to begin legal studies here, I am heartened by a number of apparent changes under Lord Mackay of Clashfern. He is, however, wrong on one thing. Remarks such as Justice Crawford's, he states, "do wholly disproportionate on or iustic and ... the judiciary". Disproportionate? Not from where I'm standing,

Yours faithfully, Z. RAHMAN. 173 Melrose Avenue, Willesden Green, NW2. March 28.

Prone to error?

From Mr Brian Morgan

Sir, First on television, now in your report (March 28), we have been informed that the tragic victims of the cult mass suicide in the US were discovered "prone, face up" in the luxury house they had rented.

Is there no St John first-aider on your editorial staff, who would instantly have known the difference between prone - lying face down, and supine - lying face up? As I recall, this elementary topic came quite early in my first-aid course.

Yours truly. B. MORGAN. Manna, Rectory Lane, Great Rissington. Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. March 28.

Mistaken identity

From Mr Frank L. Shaw, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Central England in Birmingham

Sir, All Fools' Day notwithstanding, I must admit - as an Old Nottinghamian — to experiencing a brief frisson of concern when I read today that a Belgian lady was seeking a certain Frank Shaw, the alleged father of her war-

time daughter, now aged 51. Never have I been so pleased to admit to having served in the Royal Navy rather than the Sherwood Foresters (coincidentally, my father's First World War regiment). Even so, this misplaced notoriety has provided my family with much amusement.

Yours faithfully, FRANK SHAW. Pro-Chancellor. University of Central England in Birmingham, Perry Bar, Birmingham B42 2SU. April 1.

Short for protester?

From Mr R. E. Nicklas

believe Politics?

Sir, I am aware of the meanings of Yuppy and Nimby, but what is a Swampy (reports, April 1 and 2)? Is it a Sincere Well-meaning Amiable Motorway Protester or one who Shirks Work and Argues Make-

Yours faithfully, R. E. NICKLAS, 42 Park Lane, Cottingham, East Yorkshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE April 2: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President. The Guide Association, this afternoon opened the Hawkins Headquarters of the Alton Westbrook District Guide in Chawton Park

Road, Alton. Her Royal Highness was received by Mr Michael Campbell (Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire). KENSINGTON PALACE

April 2: The Duchess of Gloucester today opened the Bennion Centre and the Bradgate Mental Health Unit at Glenfield, Leicester, and later opened the Royal Leicester-shipe. Rutland and Wycliffe Soci-ety for the Blind's Welcome Home Project. Eytes Monsell. After-wards Her Royal Highness opened the Hinckley and District Museum, Hinckley, and later, as Patron, National Association of Gifted Children, attended a dinner to mark the Association's 30th

Anniversary at Hanover Inter-national Hotel, Hinckley. YORK HOUSE

April 2: The Duke of Kent this ternoon visited the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action, Crescent Road, Caerphilly, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan (Mr Murray McLaggan).
His Royal Highness this after-noon visited Ocean Technical

Glass Limited, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards).
The Duke of Kent later visited

Techniquest, Science Discovery Centre, Stewart Street, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, and as Grand Master, the United Grand Lodge of England, this evening attended a dinner at Masonic Hall, Guildford Street, Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will open the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress, national Convention Birminglam, at 4.00.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Soci-eties (NADFAS), will attend the Young NADFAS silver jubilee day at Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey, at 2.40; and will a concert in aid of the English Speaking Union's Music Fund at Drapers' Hall at

University appointment Cambridge

King's College Elected into junior research fellowship in human geography for four years from i October 1997: Bronwyn Catherine Parry BA (Sydney).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Henry IV. reigned 1399-1413, Bolingbroke, Lincoln-shire, 1367; John Abernethy, sur-geon, London, 1764; Leslie geon, London, 1764; Leslie Howard, actor, London, 1893; Henry Luce, publisher of Time, Fortune. Life, Tengchow, China.

1998.

DEATHS: Bartolome Murillo, painter, Seville, 1682; Reginald Heber, bishop and hymn writer. Trichinopoly, India, 1826; Sir James Clark Ross, Arctic explorer, Aylesbury, 1862; Jesse James, outlaw, shot dead, St Joseph, Missourl, 1882; Johannes Brahms, composer, Viene, 1907, Pichard composer. Vienna, 1897: Richard D'Oyly Carte, promotor of Gilbert and Sullivan operas, London, 1901; Kurt Weill, composer, New York, 1950; Ferde Grofé, composer, 1972; Sir Peter Pears, tenor, Aldeburgh, 1986; Graham Greene, OM, CH, novellst, Vevey, Switzerland, 1991.
The first Pony Express started the regular 2,000-mile run from St Joseph, Missourl, to Sacramento, California, 1860; Stalin was appointed General Secretary of the Communist Party,

The Brixton riots began, 1981.

Birthdays today

Mr Alec Baldwin, actor, 39; Professor Janet Bately, Professor of English Language and Medieval Literature, King's College London, 65: Mr Tony Benn, MP, 72: Str Jeffery Bowman, former chair-man, Price Waterhouse Europe, 62; Mr Marion Brando, actor, 73: Mr R.S. Burman, former chairman. Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 57; Canon A.D. Caesar, former Sub Dean of HM Chapels Royal, 73; Dr. Dennis Fart, former director, Courtauld Institute Galleries, 58; Mr William Gaunt, actor, 60; the Duke of Grafton, KG, 78; the Rev David Jones, former Headmaster.

Brynnston School, 63: Herr bryanston School, 63: Herr Helmut Rohl, Chancellor of Germany, 67: Mr Jonathan Lynn, writer and actor, 54: Mr Eddie Murphy, actor, 36: Lord Justice Nourse, 65; Sir John Smith, CH, former, MB, 74: Mr. EV. Toformer MP, 74; Mr F.H. Tate, former vice-chairman, Tate & Lyle, 84: Sir Malcolm Thornton, MP, 58; Professor Kathleen Tillorson, Emeritus Professor of English, Bedford College, London Univer-sity, 91; Dr., H.C. Tomlinson, Headmaster, Hereford Cathedrai School, 49; Mr John Virgo, snooker player, 51; Professor Sir Michael Woodruff, FRS, surgeon,



Rainbow trout being released from a motor boat yesterday into Southern Water's Bewl Water reservoir near Lamberhurst, Kent. Nearly 10,000 trout that have been reared in cages over the winter will be put into the reservoir which is now the South's largest fishing area. The water level is high, despite low rainfall, thanks to a new £18 million pumping station and pipeline bringing water from the River Medway

Premium Bond winners

The following Premium Bond prizewinners vesterday:

ISTN 254919, winner has a holding

of £1,027 and comes from Strathclyde: 27FL 593979, £14,999, Dor-set: 32WL 886049, £250, South Yorkshire; 22DW 755467, E9.214, E50,000:

34BB 785788, £9,995, West Mid-lands; 27FZ 499842, £5,271, Essex; £2LB 238828, £1,000, Devon; 42PF 811199, £5,450, Cheshire: 29GS 403422, £19,170, Strathclyde; 46QZ 240421, £5,000, West Yorkshire; 33KW 655404, £4,090, Cambridge-shire; 62SS 73617Z, £20,000, Hertfordshire: 49AZ 805018, £3,003, Strathclyde.

£25,000: HDL 493607, £19.911, Greater Manchester: 40LT 373774, £10.000, Co. Down; 54NT 530480, £10.645, Leicestershire; 40KZ 005068, El0,005, London Borough of Waltham Forest; 63FS 371160, £15,000, Mid Glamorgan; 39VN 501732, £14,015, Warwickshire;

60QW 939182, El0,000, Warwick-shire: 32DF 398880, E20,000, Merseyside: 11ML 483348, E20,000, Lancashire: 49BL 667726, £12,935. Wiltshire; 31ZN 715547, E2,250; Nottinghamshire; 40BB-768771, E11,011, Surrey; 9AB 671779, E1,500. Nottinghamshire; 36CL, 539922. £19,710, Comwall; III.T 248576 £25 North Yorkshire; 48EN 949139, E13,095, Surrey;

30BP 558938, £10,000, London

Borough of Wandsworth.

Was napalm the killer of Hercules?

By Norman Hammond, archaeology correspondent

THE famous Greek myth of the killing of Herakles with a flaming robe may have a basis in simp chemistry, a recent study shows. The death of Jason's paramour Glauke in the Euripides play Medea uses the same dramatic device, and may be based on the

According to the myth, Herakles for Hercules) shot the centaur Nessus for abducting his wife Deianetra. The dying Nessus told her to collect his blood, mix it with oil, and keep it in an airtight container: if Herakles strayed, he could be won back by impregnat-ing his clothing with the mixture. When this happened. Deianeira sent her husband a tunic thus

treated, with the message that it should touch nobody's skin but his, and should not be exposed to light, heat, or moisture. After her messenger had left, however, a plece of the fabric that had fallen in the courtyard burst into flames, and Deianeira realised she had When Herakles donned the robe

it burst into flames, corroding his skin and boiling his blood. When he tried to rip it off his flesh came with it, and when he plunged in agony into a stream it burnt the more flercely. Finally, as Sopho-cles records in The Trackinian. Women around 430 BC, Herakles threw himself onto an altar-fire, and his spirit rose to Olympus as the flames consumed his body, Euripides's Medea tells flust when Jason left Medea for the

Corinthian Princess Glauke, the

former treated a robe with secret

substances "that stored up the powers of fire" and sent it to her rival in an airtight casket, with the message that only Glauke should open it. When she tried the gown on it burst into "clinging streams of unnatural devouring fire" that melted her flesh.

Ancient Greek vases depict the

two stories from the 5th century BC onwards, as Roman sculptures did later. Dr Adrienne Mayor suggests that the striking parallels between the tales reflect "some real but extraordinary fire phenom-In both, new clothing was

treated with secret substances, which had to be kept from light, air, and moisture; in both the flames were very hot and corrosive, could not be extinguished with water, and clung to the flesh. rather like napalm. Dr Mayor says in Archaeology. Napalm is a mixture of petrol

and a sticky base similar natural crude oils with volatile light fractions such as naphtha are found in the Middle East and in a lew places in Greece and Italy, and are noted in ancient texts as being used for both lighting and warfare, as well as in textile finishing. in the time of Sophocles and

Euripides, the Spartans used a flaming mixture of pitch and sulphur during the Pelopponesian War in 430 and 424 BC, while in 69 BC at Samounts on the Euphrases the Romans were attacked with "a flammable mud called maltha . . . it sticks to anything it touches, water merely makes it burn more flercely". The Roman authors Canada-UK Chamber

of Commerce Mr David P. O'Brien of Canadian Pacific was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Pliny and Plutarch thought Medea must have used naphtha, while Seneca felt "the fire that and speaker at a function of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the Tower Thistle Hotel, Mr Michael Chapman, president of the chamber, presided. The Canadian High Commissioner, Viscount Weir, Lord Shaughmessy lurks in sulphur" was an ingredient.
"The evidence points to three key substances - petroleum, sulphur. and lime," Dr Mayor says. "Petroleum products are notorious for flowing, clinging, unquenchable and the Agent General for British Columbia were among the guests flames: sulphur burns at extremely high temperatures, and releases sulphuric acid as it liquelies, and

Luncheon

Dinner

Anstrolia British Chamber

of Commerce (UK)
Dr Don Brash, Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner of the Australia British Chamber of Commerce (UK), the New Zealand United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce and Industry and TRADENZ held last night at New Zealand House, Mr Brian Harris, Chairman of ABCC, presided and Mr John Collinge, High Commissioner for New Zealand also spoke. Mr John Waugh, Senior Trade Commis-sioner for TRADENZ, and Mr Alan Brown, Agent General for the State of Victoria, were among the

Latest wills

Viscount Bearsted, banker, Director Hill Samuel Group 1965-87, of London SE19, left estate valued at E3,811,346 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives Lord Mayhew, of London SW20, left estate valued at £615,321 net.

Forthcoming. marriages

The Hon J.H.C. Harris and Miss J.N.G. Fulford-Dobson The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Viscount and Viscountess FitzHarris, of Greywell Hill, Hampshire, and Jemima, eldest daughter of Captain Michael Fulford-Dobson, RN, and Mrs Fulford-Dobson, of Cerne Abbey,

Mr A.M.K. Barlow and Mies V.M. Bumon

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Sir John Barlow, Bt, and Lady Barlow, of Cheshire, and Veronica, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrews Buxton, of Bentley Park, Ipswich

Mr P.A. Chitty and Miss K.A. Hoare

The engagement is announced between Philip, elder son of Mr. Anthony Chitty, of Brighton, and of Mrs Ann Lockyer, of Burgess Hill, Sussex, and Kate, younger daughter of Sir Timoliny and Lady Hoare, of Islington, London.

Mr S.C.E. Marshall and Miss K. Gregor

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Marshall, of Bourn, Cambridgeshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Gre of Langland, Swansea.

Mr J.D. May and Miss A.E.H. Mason The engagement is announced between Justin Dieter, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dieter May, of Forest Row, East Sussex, and Antonia? Eugenie Home, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Mason, of otton St Lawrence, Hamoshire

Mr J.K. van Nieuwenhuizen and Miss Miranda Grant of Glenmoriston

The engagement is announced between Johan Karel, son of the; late Mr Jacob Roelof van-Nieuwenhuizen and of Mrs van, Nieuwenhuizen, of Amerstoort, The Netherlands, and Miranda, daughter of Mr and Mrs lan' Grant of Glemmoriston.

Mr QJ. Quarterman and Miss J.A. Threapleton The engagement is announced between Quentin, son of Mr and Mrs Maxwell Quarterman, of East' Portlemouth, Devon, and Julie, younger daughter of Major and Mrs Thomas Threapleton, of East-

Mr N.A. Spells and Miss A.J. Rawlings-Lloyd The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mis Spells, of Canterbury, Kent, and Amanda, daughter of Captain and Mrs Rawlings-Lloyd, of Lower Beeding, West Sussex.

Marriage

Mr J.W.D. Ewart and the Hon Mrs E. Jackson The marriage took place on.
Wednesday, April 2, 1997 at the Church of the Sacred Heart and: Our Lady, Aston-le-Walls, of Mr. John Ewart, of Astrop Park, Northamptonshire, to Mrs. Susannah Jackson. (net Chaytor) of Cottisford, Oxfordshire, widow of the Hon Edward Jackson. Mgr. Graham Adams officiated.

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1	RIR	TH	2		

Pareland Hospital to Julia Noble and Rey, a daughter, Emma Alexandra, a sister for BOMMAR - James Alexander born 31st March 1997 to Steve and Marce, at George Town Hospital, Cayman Islands, Exidab West Indies. 7lbs, and all is well.

Proposed - On Good Friday, 28th March 1997, to Victoria (née Black) and eNicholas, a son, Christopher John Hartley. BOWLER - On 25th March 1 Elizabeth (nee Watmough and James, a daughter, Saral

to Camilla (née Preston) and anthony, a son, Michael. Annabelle (née Wates) and Christopher, a son, Edward Christopher, a son, Edward

entwiste - On 30th March 1997, to Fiona (née Stebbings) and Julian, a son, William. A brother for GLEN - On 12th March in Falkiek, to Christopher and Christine (née Bruce), a daughter, Laurie, a sister to Alex and Calum.

Alex and Canada GRAFT - To Kate (née Exton) Sand Richard, a daughter Sachel Louise, Sibs 1802 on 1st April at The John Endcliffe Hospital, Oxford HAMERO - On March 29th at The Portland Hospital to Hattle (nee Ward Jones) and Alkr a daughter, Jessima, a sister for Benjamin.

HORROCKS - On 26th March 1997 in London to Kate (née Sheridan) and Peter, a son, Edward Lealie Sheridan. KERR-DINEEM - On .22nd February to Jacqui and Michael, a son, Edward

GREEKY - On 25th March 1997 to National Conference of Cyril, a Son, Maximilian Andrew Francis, a brother for Alexander, Tstiana and

Ansuration

MARWA - On March 27th at
The Portland Respital to
Jacqueline and Prince SingleBinwa, a son, Kit, a brother
for Jake-Elliott.

RAYMER - On March 27th, to
Patricia (née Pincham) and
Anthony, a son Rugh, a
brother for Rachel and
Biotte. Hotty. - On April 2nd to Irone 3t Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, a son Senjamin Edward.

CHORELD - On Much 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Dawn and Anthony, a son,

Shoun - On Marza 17th et fit Thomas' Hospital, to Deacon and Shella, a son, Atticus John Sumasi. THOMAS - To Adam (né Robson) and Tig, a son, Exphael Lovejoy Anda, born in Paris on April Fools Day, an ally for Fabian and a blessing to us all, Multum in

romestry - On Much loth to Biz (née Whitmore) and Feter, a daughter, Alla Pariotte Elizabeti.

MARRIAGES

Saints Church, Crofton on Easter Saturday Jason Derek, son of Mr and Mrs D. Hatbeck of Glossop to Ruth Emma Virginia, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Haigh of Conton Thotakin.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

April 2nd 1947, Liverpoor April 2nd 1947, Liverpoor Now in Encloid, INC 7LW

DEATHS

ALEXANDER - SIR NORMAN PAID.
DSC GBE. On March 26th
peacefully in his sleep, in
his 91st year, after a
distinguished career in
Commonwealth Universities. Commonwealth Universities. Funeral at Exetar and Devon Crematorium on Wednesday April 16th at 2pm. Purther dealls from A. White & Sons. Tel: 01363 772043. Fazz. 01363 774868. Memorial Event in London to be

LLWOOD-COPPIN - Ros Stewart (Cop). Pencefully at Poole General Hospital after a short timess. Sedly missed: Funeral at Poole Crematorium Friday 4th Ageil 10.30. Panniy flowers. Donarions in lies to Royal

BADEM FULLER - Alfred BADEN FULLER - Alfred Aubons suddenly and peacefully on March 27th at Lancaster Lodge in Wimbledon aged 90 years. Alfred Aubone, Commons Commissioner, Bencher of Lincoln's Inn. widower of Alice, much loved father of Eate-Margaret, Fanny and Charles and grandfather of Laura and Colin. Funeral Service at St John the Eaptist Church, Spancer Baptist Church, Spencer Hill, Wimbledon on Friday 1 th April at 2 pm, followed by private cremation-Enquiries to Mears & Cotterill, 169 Meston Ecad, SW18, teb (0181) 874-7698.

DEATHS

ERD - Dr. George, Director of The West Midlands Blood Transfusion Service 1965-1981, passed away on March 28th 1997 aged 80 years. Much loved bushand, Inther and grandfuther, Service and Mach loved bushand, buther and grandfather. Service and gremation at Robin Hood Grematorium, Birmingham, on Monday April 7th at 2.30pm. Family thowas only. Donations in Hes for "Dr. George Bird Memorchi Fund" may be sent to V. Morton & Sons Ltd., Funeral Directori, 705, Bristol Road South, Strmingham B31 2 [T by April 21st please.

BRIGGS - Robert Lionel, passed peocefully away on 27th March after ensuring that all was well for his with Windred Until the end he was a caring thoughtful provider for all his family. He will be lovingly remembered by Hugh (his son), and Hugh's partner, julie, and by Ben (grandson) and jemme (grand daughter)

BRITTON - On March 27th 1997, James Duncan Edition D.S.C aged 75 years. Peacefully in his sleep. Service at Taubton

GAPLAN - Margaret Joan (nee
Bary) died peacetully 28th
March aged 81, deeply loved
and Joving wife of Isador,
suivived and greatly grieved
by her daughters Sally, jame
and Charlotte, her
grandchildren Daniel,
Gideon, Jessica and Sampuel
and her sister Molly, Funeral
on Tuesday 8th April
1.30pm at Mortlake
Crematorium, family flowers
only, Donations if desired to
The Almainer Lieus Society; enquiries to Andrew
Holmes & Son (0181 572
3277). Grateful thanks to
everyone at Strawberry Hill
Nursing Home.

(Billie) nee Bowring, suddenly on 31st March, aged 53. Funeral at St. Lawrence's Church, Hungerford, Monday 7th April at 230. Denstons it besied to NFCC. Rouse to Sentity to See 5 Codes.

Pranklin & Son, 5 Oxford Street, Ramsbury, Malborough SNS 2PG. YARCY - (in 30th March, Judy (nee Reed), aged 86, peacefully after a brave struggle against illness. Private family funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium (West Chapel) on Friday April 4th, at 3.15pm Family

GREEN - Francis Archibald Killocksley, Zedred Captain RA Croix de Guerre 1945. Died let April 1997. Dearly loved busbond of the late Armorel and much loved Criend of Harst

ELIOTT - On 27th March pencefully efter a short liness Major JML (Mike) Eliott RL retired. Lately Chairman of Roughton a Partners, Beloved husband of Christine, much loved father and grandfather

father and grandfather. Funezi Service at 2t Many's Church, Charibury, on Tuesday 8th April at 11 am. Family Howers. Denotions if desired for The Couner Eouse and Charibury Memorial Hall payable to AL Sole & Son, ofo Bidston Close, Over Norton, Onen. OX7 SPP.

HARDMAM - William James (BiII). Srd July 1936-31st March 1997 of Dubei, DAE and of Rustington, West Sussex. Founder and Managing Director of Elcome International, Dubei 1969. Went down with all flags flying and with full honours after a courageous battle against the Big C. He is despit loved and will show the missed by his wife, Helen, his boys William, Keith and Michael, by their wives, by his 4 grandchildren, by his father-in-law, Martin and by the many people who knew

lieu of flowers please to R.N.L.I. Enquiries and donations can be made through F.A. Hollands Funeral Directors 16 Ash Lang Rustington Tel: 01903

MEDWELL - On Monday 31st March peacefully at The Royal Free Hospital. Hampstead, Hamma aged 72. White of Infaire Lieuway and long standing friend to many, Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium on Wednesday 9th April at 2pm. Flowers to Lewstom & Sons, 39 Brent Street, HW4 or donations to Arthritis and Rheunatism Council for Research, Copenan House, St Mary's Gare, Chesterfield S41 77D.

LAMPARD - On 23rd March 1997 Devid Austra Lampard DPC aged 73 of Atwater, California. Husband (Naila, father and grandfather, brother of Fruitine Millevan of Whaley Bridge and Martin Laumard of Aldeburgh. A very brave

MacIVER - On 28th March 1997 suddenly, but peacefully at his home. Doctor Angue Gordon Mariver M.D. MEC. PATH. Adough Inshinal of Victis and much loved 2sther of Nicholas, Timothy and leveny. Resting now with his internal multiple Popular Savrice Christ Charch

father-in-law, Martin and by the many people who knew him and whose lives he touched. Titll allow in our hearts). Funeral Service to be hald at Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Church, Vermoni Drive, East Preston, West Sussex 230pm Tuesday 8th April 1997 followed by a Service at Worthing Crematorium. Domatica to lieu of flowers please to

LEHMANN - Raiph Joseph (1927-1997) persed away on 25th March after a short illuses. The frequent was held at Edgwarebury Lane Cometery, London. Deeply mourned by Talla, Ronel, Ordan and Eldon - family, friends and colleagues.

31st March 1997 on holiday in Zimbabwe, Private

KELLY - Peacefully at Oxford on 31st March, Rev Dr John Norman Davidson Kelly, formerly Principal of St Edmund Hall, Oxford and Canon of Chichester, beloved Uncle and Great-Uncle. Service for family and triends at 31 am on Tweeday 8th April, For details phome The Lodge, St Edmund Hall O1865 2 FOM. No Prosephese, but donastons to Sir Michael Sobell House, Churchill Hospital, Oxford, A Memorial Service will be laid byte.

Service Christ Church, Ciliton, Bristol on Wednesday 9th April at 12.15pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, Conations it desired to The Study of Infant Deeths (MacVer Ristol) 14 Halkin Street, London SWIX 7DF. Enquiries to Ethic Britton & Son Feneral Directors. 10 High Street, Fatton, North Somerset. Tel: 01934 832115.

MARLART Ella. Before dawn on March 27th 1997, in her 95th year, the traveller and writer left us for her "Bertom to the Light". A ceremony in Hila's memory will take place at the Calvaire in Chandolin on 12th April, 1997, at 14.00hrs. Family and friends, "Archals", CR 3961 Switzesland

MATHEWS - On March 30th 1997 at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, Harry Francis Elliott (Frank), dear husband of Olga, loving inther of Vivien and Lorna, grandfather of Patrick, Alexandra, Victoria and Jereny and great

atter's short but courageous battle, Geoffrey aged 85. Beloved husband of the law Valletta, loving and adored father of Charlotte, and dearth belowed mundicates dearly beloved grandiather of Lisa and Mimi Peneral Service at Mortlake Crematorium on Monday April 7th at 3pm. All enquiries, and cut flowers only or donations for Trinity Hospics to J H Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, W3 dLA. Telephone 0171 937 0757. "Eternally

MELSON - Doctor Harry on April 1st aged 91. Peacefully at home. Funeral Service at 8t Martins, Brampton 11am Saturday April 5th. Nice - Geoffrey Thomas Kinder, aged 84 of Great Barton on 30th March, Mach loved husband of Pauline. Fumenal private. Donations in his memory to The British Heart Foundation may be seat c/o L. Fulcher 80 Whiting Street, Bury 5t Edmands. MPVEM - On March 30th 1997 aged 90 years. Peacefully, Birtley House N'M, Bramley, Sarrey, Margaret Graeme Nivea ROI, will be sadly writes at an output common, while, Survey on Thursday 10th April 11.45ate. Family flowers only, if wished donations for the Artists General Schevolent Int. Resurvices to Robert Artists

PAYSE - John David suddenly at home at Whitton House, Caynham, on Baturday March 29th 1977 aged 43. Dear husband of Anne, loving father of Lucy and Michael. Funeral strangements to be announced later. All enquiries please to Gasham Heiron Funeral Director, tal. (01584) 856273. POULTON - Arthur Lawrence Hemry, On 30th March 1997 Peacefully after a short illness. Loving father of Clive and Nell. Service so Peterborough Crematorium on Friday 11th April 1997 at 11st.

SAIMDERS. Betry on Ageil Ist (Betry Saunders of the Church Times) after a long liness, but reporting to the end. Dear wife of Basil. Mother of Bill, Ista, Louisa, Etta, Eddie and Charlotte. Grandmother of Tom, Georgie, Felix and Elsa. Funezal Mass at S Mary Brookfield, Durtmouth Park Road. Loudon NWS at Brocksain, Dartmooth Park Road, London NW5 at 2.30pm, Monday April 7, followed by private Cremation. Flowers to Leverton & Sons Ltd, 149 Kentish Town Road, London NW1.

SOLER - On Easter Monday after a long Siness, Robert Philip, husband of Jose and father of Christopher and Stephen Funeral 10.30 am on Wednesday 9th April at Surrey and Sussex Consistence, Warth Parelly flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Centre, Caterham c/o WA. Truslove & Son, 187 Croydon Road, Caterham, Surrey CK3 6FH.

SWAR Andrew All on Manch 30th suddenly in Ewitherland, Bushmad of Philippa Private cramation, invites at Eurose, Indiana Church at 2.30ym on Thursday 10th April. Mo flowers pierre, Denations in 1ieu to British Heart Foundation c/o Colin Close 1B Filsbury Street, Elandford, Dorset DT11 7AU.

SWINGURSE | Julia Seloved daughter of Mrs Joan Swinburse and the late James Swinburse and brother of Miles of

Loatherhead. No Howers at his request.

VOI 1984-1 It's Monles (née Bradford) on March 29th 1997 at Umzumbe, Natal. Beloved wife of the inte Dieter, dear mother of Mark, Sichard, Afrisa and Valda and much loved

NWI.

SHEPHERD - Joan passed away peacefully on Saturday 20th March. She will be sadly missed by her devoted husband Eobert and her loving children Deborah, Christopher and Nicholass and their wives and husband also her six grand-tholdren. Tenent will be at Line Church at 11am on From 4th April rothwed by interment at Thorpe

TUDOR - Henry of Durham University, Died Sunday 30th March in America, after a short illness. Memorial

SERVICES

Sherborne, Dorset. Died suddenly on 31st March 1997. No flowers please. Demations to the EEP.CA if

quicklime sprinkled with water can generate enough heat to com-

oust spontaneously". All three were used in ancient

and three were used in ancient tedile manufacture, for pigment, softening and cleansing, or waterproofing. If some remained on cloth which had been kept in a

sealed container, water could set it

alight. Theophrastus noted that

ships laden with new cloaks

sometimes go down in flames when water ignites the time residue in the wool," and the Romans

used a tunica molesta impreg-nated with naphtha, which caught

fire and, according to Seneca, was used by Nero on Christians.

Such strange effects, when first encountered by the Greeks, could well have led to speculation and

Incorporation into stories that

rationalised and explained them.

Dr Mayor suggests. She believes that because women produced cloth, their access to such perilous

technology led to the myths of

Herakles and Glauke, in which the implications of their abuse were

explored for Greek society as a

Source: Archaeology Vol.50 No. 2:

Wicass - Alfred Henry, Died panefully 31st March in his 90th year. Much loved and sadly missed by his children Jane, Hikabeth, Geoffrey, Ruth, Phitip and their families. Funeral Monday April 7th 430pm Randalls Park Crematorium, Loatherbeel. No flowers at his request.

WATKIM - Marie-Leonore peacefully on 29th March at 31 Helier Hospital, Carshalton aged 95. Much loved mother of Paul and Helen, grandmother of Tim, Toby and Lalage Funetal on Wednesday 9th April at 10am at the Sacred Heart Church Edge Hill, Wimbledon followed by private interment.

private interment.

WILLIAMS - Christine Frida
(Widow of Lennard).

Lennardy on Jih March in
a Hampshire Hospinal after
a short illiness. Greatly
missed by her family, carers
and friends. Service at
11.30am on Monday 7th
April at Aldershot
Description. To Horses.

MILEON - On Baster Sunday March 30th 1997, William Ian Scott (Ian). Loved and loving husband of Joyce, father of Eileen, Donald, Alexandra and Jennifez. Grandfather of Joseph, Nelson, James, Alexander, Isabelle, William, Thomax and Sarah. Funeral at St. Margaret's, Fernhurst at 2.00 pm on Monday 7th April, followed by Cremation at Guildford Crematorium, family only, Family flowers. at Guildford Crematorium, family only: Femily flowers, Donations to E.N.L.I. Enquiries to L.F. Lintert & Son, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, G029 9DG, tel: 01790 813264.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HAZEL - C.G.F. (George) who died on 2nd Pebraary in Gibraltar. A Memorial Service for talebastim of the life will be held on Thursday 24th April at 2.30pm at Stoke Poges Church, Buckinghamshire. Friends who died suddenly in Connecticet USA, an Friday February 28th will be surface at St February Church, Earley, Beckshire on April 11th at 2pm. All friends and colleagues are welcome: Ingalies 01734 453700 CUES PARTITIONS NECES IN

ing Agency. If you are plus penter a plump partner 01352 715909. WANTED

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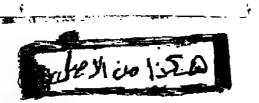
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THE REV J. N. D. KELLY

The Rev J.N.D. Kelly, FBA, theologian, Principal of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, 1951-79, died on March 31 aged 87. He was born on April 13, 7 1909.

ohn Kelly was a theologian of great distinction, a writer of limpid erudition, and for more than a quarter of a century the much-loved head of an Oxford college. Despite its great antiquity, St Edmund Hall was not actually a college at all when Kelly took over as Principal in 1951. It was he who completed the process begun by his predecessor to win full collegiate status for the Hall. And it was he who put its pretty little quad where it had never been before; prominently on the Oxonian map.

By encouraging excellence wherever it presented itself, whether in the Examination Schools, on the rugby pitch or on the stage of the Oxford Playhouse, Kelly steadily expanded the number of undergraduate places and fellowships well beyond the college's physical abilities to house them all. Even in this mundane but important respect he brought improve-ments. In 1961, thanks largely to his diplomacy, the Wolfson Trustees presented St Edmund Hall with a noble sum to enlarge its buildings. Among the benefits that resulted was that by the 1970s members of the college could for the first time in recent memory dine together at the same time in the same place. The brutish appearance of the new dining hall is redeemed by its convenience and by a splendid portrait of the erstwhile Principal himself.

For generations of young men who were at Teddy Hall between 1951 and his retirement in 1979 (this was before women were admitted). Kelly was the embodiment of the college. Despite his commitments as a canon of Chichester and a leading figure in the Church of England's ecumenical negotiations with Rome, it was a rare day in term-time when his spare baiding figure was not to be found affably buttonholing undergraduates in the vicinity of the porter's lodge. Seldom

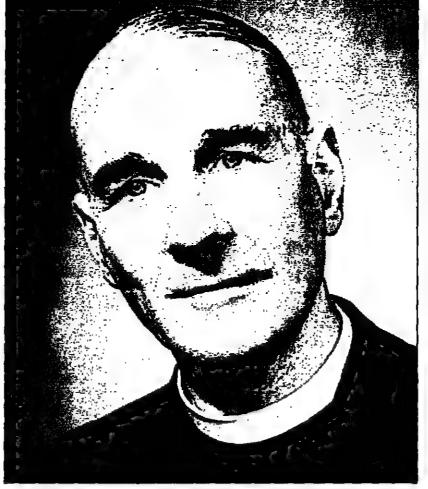
seen in anything but dark suit and dogcollar, except when he was in his squash kit, he had a kind and inquisitive word for everyone. Freshmen would quickly discover that despite the clerical garb and the somewhat mannered diffidence, he was an approachable and worldly man. Quite accurately. Kelly described one of his recreations as "chatting with young people".

Pretty much at random, he would invite selected students to dine with him, drink with him, or accompany him on long vacation tours of his beloved Greece. The impromptu tutorials that were the reward of his friendship ranged in subject matter from religion and history to politics and sex. He was no prude. He was relentlessly curious about undergraduate mores. But behind the bonhomie and the teasing manner lurked a wise and subtle moralist. He was one the last of that admirable breed of men, the bachelor don.

Few of his undergraduates can have been fully aware of the feats of scholarship their Principal was undertaking in the privacy of his study, so much did college business appear to dominate his life. Until his biography of St Jerome was published and admirably reviewed, his books were of limited popular appeal. He was a lucid writer. Of Golden Mouth, his subsequent biography of St John Chrysostom, one reviewer, unable to see Chrysostom's appeal, wrote that "J.N.D. Kelly's achievement is to make this old bigot into a living and almost sympathetic figure". The Oxford Dictionary of Popes was admirably received and he was working on a companion volume

John Norman Davidson Kelly was born at Bridge of Allan, a schoolmaster's son. After distinguished classical careers at Glasgow University and the Queen's College, Oxford, where he obtained first class degrees in Greats and Theology, he passed through St Stephen's House, was ordained deacon in 1934 and became assistant curate at St Lawrence's, Northampton. He was ordained priest in 1935, and was almost at once appointed Chaplain of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, and

about archbishops when he died.



Tutor in Philosophy. In 1937 he became Vice-Principal and a Fellow. On A.B. Emden's premature retirement in 1951 he succeeded him as Principal, and retained that office until retirement in

1979, when he became an honorary fellow. In university as distinct from college affairs Kelly was less active, and a serious illness which struck him in 1966 forced him to renounce the vice-chancellorship only a few days after he had assumed it. He was, however, a pro-vice-chancellor between 1972 and 1977.

Although deeply immersed in college business over many years, Kelly's extraor-dinary energy enabled him to keep abreast of theological scholarship and drove him to devote an increasing amount of time to research. His first book, published in 1950, was Early Christian

Creeds. Vigorous, lucid and dramatic, like all his literary work, it is noteworthy less for new discoveries or theories than for its analysis of the vast literature of credal studies which had accumulated since the late 19th century. As such it was at once accepted as of outstanding authority. placing its author at the pinnacle of Anglican patristic scholarship.
In 1955 Kelly published an edition of

Rufinus's commentary on the Apostles' Creed, and in 1958 Early Christian Doctrines (5th ed. 1977). Although this latter book remains the first (and often last) point of reference for undergraduate essays, it is more than a supreme textbook. It is frequently found cited in the learned materials of continental theologians, its mastery of the secondary material is complete, but the reader is constantly directed back to the texts themselves. Its translation into many languages (as with the Dictionary of Popes) gave him great delight. This did not end his work on the Creeds, for in 1964 he published The Athanasian Creed, a slim volume but one which contains some of his most original work. In the preceding year a commentary on the Pastoral Epistles had appeared. These distinguished contributions to scholarship earned Kelly an Oxford DD, honorary Glasgow and Wales DDs, an honorary fellowship of Queen's, and election to the British Academy. Two of his smaller books, Aspects of the Passion (the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 1970) and What is Catholicism?, displayed his ability to address a more popular audience.

In 1975 appeared his life of Jerome, arguably its author's best work, which was received with acclamation as "a superb biography" by "one ideally suited to the task". It is the first full-scale treatment of its subject in English. Jerome disposed of, Kelly at once turned to a life of St John Chrysostom, upon whom he delivered the Hensley Henson lectures, 1979-80, which formed the basis of Golden Mouth (1995). Chrysostom's career requires much reconstruction and conjecture, a scholarly minefield which Kelly entered with his usual panache.

Kelly was never conspicuous in ecclesiastical politics. He took great pleasure, however, in being a canon of Chichester from 1948 to 1993; from 1963 to 1968 he presided over the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission of Roman Catholic Relations, accompanying Michael Ramsey to Rome in 1966; and in 1965 he became a founder member of the Academic Council of the Institute for Advanced Theological Studies at Jerusalem.

Apart from his other interests, he was versed in current affairs, achitecture. French literature and modern painting. He was a particular admirer of the artist Patrick Procktor, and in his role as a canon at Chichester commissioned a work by him for the cathedral.

His own college apart. Kelly's concern for education was active, stimulated by his membership at sundry times of the governing bodies of four public schools, Royal Holloway College and St Stephen's House. In retirement, recent generations of undergraduates knew John Kelly as a familiar figure in the Bodleian's Lower Reading Room, in the congregations of Pusey House and St Mary Magdalen's, and above all in St Edmund Hall. He remained keenly interested in the affairs of his old college, helping himself to keep in touch by letting digs in his house to Teddy Hall undergraduates. He entertained in the gracious rooms he kept for himself, with their unusual combination of modern art and the battered Prayer Book from which he said the Daily Office.

Kelly warmly welcomed Sir Stephen Turnim when the latter was recently appointed as the new Principal of St Edmund Hall. After inviting Kelly to lunch in Hall not long before he died, Sir Stephen noted that his predecessor had lost none of his old interest in the young. Making his way through the quad, Kelly spotted a strapping youth. Pray tell, young man... he began with a flourish, and proceeded to inquire closely about what subject the lad was reading. Principal Tumim was greatly charmed.

DONALD SHEPHERD

Donald Shepherd, OBE, inventor of the Portakabin and Portaloo. died on March 27 aged 78. He was born on October 15, 1913.

WITH his motivating belief that "there has to be a better way", Donald Shepherd's invention of the Portuloo certainly brought considerable relief to millions of race and festivalgoers. But it was his earlier invention of the Portakabin which was to be his most important achievement.

As the manager of a large construction project, Shepherd found himself one day out on site, setting up his office on top of a packing case in the

open air. He knew there had to be a more efficient way of organising things. His solution to the problem was the Portakabin - a one-piece portable office unit which could be delivered complete and ready for immediate use. In the 35 years since it was

launched, the Portakabin module has become an architectural feature the world over. Though not beautiful, Portakabins serve their function whether on barges on the River Niger, where they accommodate oil prospectors, or on mountain peaks in Switzerland, where they have been used as observation posts. McDonald's use them for Drive Thru' restaurants and



at the end of the Falklands War 600 of them were dispatched to the South Atlantic to build a new garrison in Port Stanley.

Donald Welton Shepherd was brought up in York and remained a stalwart Yorkshireman to the end. One of six brothers, he was only 14 years old when he joined the family construction business. Apart from the war years, when he served with the Royal Artillery, he remained with this company for the rest of his life.

A determined and naturally intuitive man, he never sank into an idly bureaucratic role. His first invention was the Portasilo, designed to reduce the cost and improve the efficiency of delivering cement to building sites. Where once cement had been transported in paper bags, easily damaged and labour-intensive, Shep-

herd pioneered road tankers which could deliver directly into portable silos. He formed the company Portasilo in 1953 and it was subsequently to become a leader in the design and manufacture of equipment for the bulk handling of many different materials.

The Portakabin self-con-tained building was first intro-duced in 1961. It was designed to permanent building standards. Though at first it was made of wood, it now has a steel frame. But its most remarkable feature is that it can be relocated by one man who, through its ingenious adjustable leg system, can raise the building off the back of an ordinary flat bed truck, drive the truck clear, and lower the building into position on site - and all in a matter of minutes.

Portakabin was established as a company in 1963. Now based at Huntington, near York, it employs more than 1,000 people and has an annual turnover of more than £70 million. There are branches all over Europe. But the trademark name, Portakabin, listed in dictionaries, is ealously protected. Shepherd went on to devel-

op other module-based buildings from his design, including ones which can be linked together or built up several storeys high. In 1978 he received the Queen's Award for Export Achievement and in 1992 the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement. In that same year he was also appointed OBE.

Shepherd also formed a design consultancy group. Notwithstanding the fact that he returned from his first job having advised his client that he needed no design improvements - Shepherd was nothing if not honest -- the company was a great success. In his spare time Shepherd took an active role in civic affairs of the city of York. But he was always a hard and

He is survived by his wife Patricia and by a son and a daughter. His son has followed him into the family business.

dedicated worker and he re-

tired only last year.

MARTIN KIPPENBERGER Henry Moore-type pieces in

Martin Kippenberger German artist, died of liver cancer in Vienna on March 8 aged 44. He was born on February 25, 1953.

MARTIN KIPPENBERGER was perhaps the ultimate "artist with attitude". Painting, drawing and photography were just some of the innumerable vehicles he used for a corrosive, iconoclastic irony that spared neither the pieties of the contemporary art world, as epitomised by the shamanistic antics of Joseph Beuys, nor the hypocrisies of postwar. liberal Germany. Others included collage, happenings, rock music, aphorisms, eating, drinking, smoking, buying restaurants or petrol stations and, occasionally, getting himself beaten up.

Kippenberger rose to prominence in the punk ambience of the late 1970s, traversed the easy money and media glamour of the 1980s in a welter of events, shows and productions, and made it just far enough into the 1990s for his first proper retrospective, which opened this January at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Geneva. The current, internationally feted generation of young British artists are among the beneficiaries of his eccentric artistic legacy.

kippi, as he was generally known, resolutely rejected the notion of artistic heroism or mystique. "In painting, you have to seek what is left to paint," he once wrote. "Clearly eggs, and especially fried eggs. have not yet received their due. Bananas, at least, had their Warhol."

Here was a man who nreferred wurst and beer to sturru and drang, the belly laugh to big emotions. One of his bestknown pieces is Street Lamp for Drunks, a genuine Italian lamppost bent so that it seems to sway, as in the classic postcard joke. Other works included a self-portrait naked but for oversized underpants, in mocking reference to the famous photograph of Picasso; a botched DIY wardrobe masquerading as a Minimalist sculpture; and a set of curvy

plaster, complete with holes, which he called Family Hunger.

Taste or craftsmanship did not come into it. Although a skilled artist with a sure sense of what works, Kippenberger was just as happy to delegate execution to his studio of younger artists. And he was set on mining the rich potential of embarrassment, be the theme bad art. disease, sex, Nazism or any form of failure or discomfort - including his

Another self-portrait, ironi-Youth, depicts the artist with a



bandaged face after a noctur nal hammering by punk girls outside a bar. He had a deep distrust of high culture, and a receptiveness to popular forms. "Down with the Bourgeoisie" were the words that greeted visitors to his Geneva

Martin Kippenberger was born in Dortmund and studied in Hamburg. After an Italian sojourn starting in 1976, he moved to Berlin in 1978 and became the besuited owner of SO36, a nightclub frequented by punks, as well as the animator of the Būro Kippenberger, itself a kind of club for artists, with lots of music and drinking.

The paintings he was doing at this time ranged from kitsch to parodies of high Modernism. At the same time, he was busy churning his way through a frantic and often studiedly tuneless career as a rock musician, sometimes recording with his fellow artists Jorg immendorff and A.R. Kippenberger was constant-

ly on the move. In 1983 he settled in Cologne. As the city became, for a time, one of the most important centres of the European contemporary art world, he became the dominant figure in a group of artists practising a kind of crossover between Punk and

In Brazil in 1986 he bought a disused garage in order to rename it "The Martin Bormann Gas Stat Venice, Los Angeles, he devoted himself to recreating the stodge of Teutonic pizza in an Italian restaurant specially acquired for the purpose. He was in Spain in 1988, in the Black Forest in 1992 and in 1993 in Greece, where he founded a modern art museum in Syros. He also managed to fit in bouts of teaching and collecting along the way.

Everything about Kippen berger's life and works refused that eminently bourgeois notion of posterity, the definitive statement. The list of his personal exhibitions runs into the hundreds. He was also an energetic organiser of other people's shows (he had a regular arrangement to do so in Geneva).

Over the past few years, however, the big institutional tributes began to accumulate, with important shows in Rotterdam. Antwerp, Mönchengladbach and the Pompidou Centre in Paris (where the exhibition was called Application for a Retrospective). The show in Geneva, which has now been augmented and extended to September, features some 800 pieces, including nearly 300 paintings, drawings, sculptures and a hundred books.

Long viewed with suspicion by the art establishment, especially in Germany, Kippenberger will this summer at last be represented in the massive Documenta survey of contemporary art, held once every five years in Kassel.

Martin Kippenberger is survived by his wife and daughter.

OLD VIC

MR. LAUGHTON AS MACBETH Mr. Laughton gives us in terms of modern psychology a vivid, vital Macbeth — the slave, not of evil destiny, but of his own passions, and the victim of a mind which comprehends his own loss of integrity. None of the other Shakespearian parts Mr. Laughton has played at the Old Vic during the season now ending has seemed to stir his imaginative sympathy so deeply. Whether the neurotic usurper is "bending up each corporal agent" to Duncan's murder or procuring oblivion by acts of frenzied cruelty, the heat of the actor's interpretative ardour makes itself felt, causing us to share his own delighted apprehension of a psychological "case". What a pity that with acting so strong and so subtle should not be joined the full magic of the versel Mr. Laughton's declamation — perhaps because he is trying so hard to make the case plausible

- is unmusical, and the soliloquies, being spoken as though they had nothing like absolute values of their own, naturally lose their power to sweep the listener off his feet. This is the price we must pay when the supernatural elements of Macheth are reduced to suit a sceptical age, and it must in fairness be owned that, if Mr. Laughton gives us prose for poetry, it is very vivid prose,

ON THIS DAY

April 3, 1934

The critic here may have had doubts about aspects of Charles Laughton's Macheth but, with a cast that included Flora Robson, Roger u cast that included riora Korsyn, Koger Livesey, Marius Goring and a young James Mason, Tyrone Guthrie's production is surely one that plenty of people would have paid good money to see.

There are things in this performance which we shall not soon forget - the blood-chilling effect given to that premonitory touch of despair which shakes Macbeth when he comes down from Duncan's room, the depth of horror he plumbs for us when bloodboltered Banquo smiles upon him, and the general impression made of a man clinging desperately and joylessly through the turbulent later scenes to a life as full of fears as a levered imagination can make it. And how much of Macbeth - the Macbeth of yesterday's theatre or to-day's - appears in the actor's walk, the walk of a man in a walking dream. Miss Flora Robson's Lady Macbeth is a powerful study of a woman with a repressed conscience, and when her strength gives way, the actress gives her pathos a strange disturbing beauty. Mr. Roger Livesey is a fine Macduff.

Mr. Tyrone Guthrie's production is in the modern vein; questioning the authenticity of the first witch scene and omitting it set the tragedy in a supernatural light ... The great merit of the production is its swiftness.

266,000 THROUGH NEW MERSEY TUNNEL

Liverpool, April 2 Extraordinary success has attended the scheme for allowing the public to walk through the new Mersey tunnel as a means of satisfying curiosity and at the same time giving substantial help to the voluntary hospitals on Merseyside. For four days only pedestrians have been allowed to make the journey from Liverpool to Birkenhead through the new tunnel. The distance is a little over two miles. On Good Friday 66,500 people went through, and by Sunday night the number had risen to 181,000. When the visiting came to a close at 8 o'clock tonight the grand total for the four days was 266.578. Nearly £7,000 will be handed to the hospitals.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PUBLIC NOTICES CHARITY COMMUNICATION
Charity The Vernon Fund (a substitiary charity of the Spillers War Memorial Behavolent Fund (20701)
Scheme to meet The Vernon Fund wich the Spillers War Memorial Behavolent Fund
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WCKEY, Manie misses you H. | THANKS to St Jude, for benefits PUBLIC NOTICES



Scottish Power pla Notice of an application for consent to construct and operate a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Generating Station at Capenhurst in the district of Chester, Cheshire (Grid Reference SJ 365 748).

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Power pic has applied under Section 36 of the Electricity Act (1989) for the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry's consent to construct and operate a CHP plant at Capenhurst, Cheshire; and for a direction under Schedule 8 of the Act stating that planning permission for the generating station be deemed

The proposed generating station, to be known as Capenhurst CHP Plant, will have a total nominal output of 65MW.

A copy of the application; a plan showing the land to which it relates; an accompanying Environmental Review document and supporting information are available for inspection by members of the public at the following locations during normal office

Planning Department, Chester City Council. Planning Department, Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council. Planning Department, Cheshire County Council.

Copies of the Environmental Review and Non Technical Summary may also be inspected at ScottishPower's offices at: ScottishPower, 75 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 7BD. Copies of the Environmental Review (£50 per copy) and the Non Technical Summary (white stocks last) can be obtained from the Environment and

Planning Section, ScottishPower Technology

Division, 45 Hawbank Road, College Milton

North, East Kilbride, Glasgow G74 SEG. Objections to the application should be made in writing to the Secretary of State, Department of Trade & Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H OET stating the name of the station and the grounds for the objection before 1st May 1997, It is requested that a copy of any objection be posted to the Environment and Planning Section at the address above.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Major says Britain is best

John Major offered support for marriage, the family, the elderly and children yesterday when he announced a Conservative election manifesto dedicated to making Britain "the best place in the world to live".

He promised £1.2 billion tax concessions for married couples when either the husband or wife stays at home to look after children or dependent relatives and he outlined measures on schools and crime .. .Pages 1, 7-14, 22, 23

Tory support slips in MORI poll

■ The Tories have lost further public support in the first fortnight of the campaign. A MORI poll for The Times shows Labour at 55 per cent, up from 50 per cent a week ago, with the Tories on 28 per cent, down a point since before Easter. The Liberal Democrats have fallen three points to 11 per centPage 1

Blair's promise

Tony Blair will today release Labour's manifesto - a personal 10-point contract with Britain promising voters that he will not "dazzle for 100 days and then disappoint" ----..... Page 1

Boy dead in cell

An inquiry has been launched after the death of a 15-year-old boy found hanging in a cell at Hartlepool police station, on Teesside, only hours after his ...Page 2

Canal murders

The murderer of identical twin brothers wheeled their battered bodies through the streets in a shopping trolley and dumped them in a canal, the Old Bailey

RA hopefuls

Candidates for the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Show queued in the Strand to deliver about 2,000 Items for the selection

Sick man of Europe

Britain is the unhealthiest country in western Europe, according to a survey based on statistics of the 12 main indicators of public ... Page 4

Falklands association

was launched......

The South Atlantic Medal Association for the 29,500 people who wear the medal commemorating their part in the Falklands War

Rat warfare

A team of mountaineers scaled 350ft cliffs on the seabird colony of Handa Island, off northwest Scotland, to try to poison the entire population of brown rats, which eat chicks Page 6

Looted art

Almost a thousand works of art in French museums which were looted from Jews are to go on show in the hope of restoring them to the descendants of the owners .. Page 15

Whitewater catch

Two of President Clinton's most trusted aides were snagged by Whitewater amid allegations of "hush money" forWebster Hubbell, the former Associate Attorney-General Page 17

Mercenaries Inquiry

The Papua New Guinea Government has so far paid the British commpany Sandline half of its £22 million fee for mercenaries, the inquiry was told Page 18 Bus attacked

Palestinians ambushed an Israeli military bus, sending the blazing vehicle plunging off the road and injuring 12 soldiers and the ...Pages 18, 19 driver.

Rabin protest Leah Rabin, widow of the assassi-

nated Israeli Prime Minister, criticised John F Kennedy Jr for publishing an article by the kill-... Page 19

Mr Major's feathered friend

.,..... Page 5

Noel Flanagan, a part-time musician, has leading part in the Tory offensive against Tony Blair. Dressed as a six-foot yellow chicken, he is to follow the Labour leader around the country to try to goad him into agreeing to appear in a televised debate with John Major. Previous roles include a segment of a caterpillar and the front of a St Bernard dog Page !



Two wooden columns to support the roof over the stage being delivered to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on Bankside yesterday

BUSINESS

Offine: Cellnet, the mobile phone company, recruited only 12,000 new customers in the first three months of the year, far fewer than even its smallest rivalsPage 27

Defence: GEC has delivered a blow to its partnership with the French group Alcatel-Alsthorn by independently entering the bidding war for one of France's leading defence companiesPage 27

Footbatt: Bolton Wanderers are the latest team to join the stock market in a reverse takeover valuing them at £22 million... _ Page 29

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 11.5 points to close at 4236.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 98.7 to 98.6 after a fall from \$1.6467 to \$1:6447 and from DM2.7497 to DM . Page 30

Rugby union: Martin Johnson, of Leicester, who has yet to lead England, will captain the British Isles in South Africa. The Lions also spring other surprises Page 52 Football: Irish hopes of qualifying

for the 1998 World Cup were dealt a heavy blow when Ireland lost 3-2 to Macedonia and Northern Ireland lost 2-1 to Ukraine Page 48 Gott: Seve Ballesteros fell ill and had to withdraw from the Freeport

McDermott Classic in New Orleans, losing his last chance to improve his dismal form ahead of the Masters next week Page 49 Racing: The Irish-trained Time For

A Run, a leading fancy for the Martell Grand National at Aintree on Saturday, will miss the race because of injury Pages 46, 47

ARTS

Big acreen: Colin Firth swaps Darcy's breeches for Arsenal boxer shorts to play the obsessive hero of Nick Homby's Fever Pitch. Geoff Brown on new releases Page 35

Small acreen: Jim Jarmusch's languorous existential western Dead Man, with Johnny Depp and including some startling cameos, is newly out on video......

Past imperfect: Fine performances and a few sharp epigrams cannot overcome the florid nonsense Oscar Wilde penned in Lady Windermere's Fan

ice malden: The screenwriter, producer and former comedian Kitty Aldridge tells Ros Drinkwater why she has returned to acting for this weekend's BBC thriller. The Ice

TOMORROW

David Sinclair talks

to pop's brightest

Supergrass, about

their new album

FEATURES

Valerie Grove

interviews the

young things,

POP

IN THE TIMES

FEATURES

Haughty couture: In their search for catwalk cachet, fashion designers are plundering the aristocracy and the pages of Debrett's to find the right breed of supermodel. Grace Bradberry reports .. Page 21

Lush itte: Gerald Kaufman is delighted to take the "A" Train: Roy Porter wonders what makes civilisation Pages 38, 43

Service charges: The British abroad are enthusiastic tippers but confused about when and where to give extra, so tend to err on the

BODY AND MIND Medical file: Dr Thomas Stuttaford

on cancer treatment in pregnancy: pollution danger in the garden; treating the baby blues Page 20

BOOKS

TRAVEL NEWS

THE PAPERS

The differences between the two main sides in the Middle East peace process are reportedly small. A gesture by Israel, such as the conditional opening of a Palestinian airport in Gaza, could help to revive the larger negotiating pro--The New York Times

LOTTERY NUMBERS estimated jackpot was £3,700,000.

25, 17, 10, 43, 40, 5. Bonus: 8. The

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Meet a TV cook with eastem promise. Nancy Lam (Channel 5. Spm). Review: Lynne Truss cannot see the point of Channel 5's garden game.....

OPINION

Major's manifesto

Mr Major has barely begun to persuade those who believe that it is time for a change. Judging by our MORI poll today, those who need persuading are still well in the ascendant ...

American rendezvous

American investment in the peace process is such that it would be a diplomatic disaster for the President if the whole structure were to coliapse..... Page 23

The loo's the thing

Sir Alan has suffered A Chorus of Disapproval over his theatre, he could contribute more than A Word from Our Sponsor Page 23

COLUMNS

of boom in credit

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Sometimes one suddenly finds one. self warming to the Prime Minister: I can well understand why old and loyal Tories love him. Who but he would publish a manifesto with this quirky pledge: "We will require all government agencies to apply for chartermarks"? Page 22

QUENTIN LETTS

When you first open a new hardback Wisden, there is that soft creak of the spine which matches the sound of ancient cricket boots under the turn of an eager heel in the April nets. It is, furthermore. the creak that will be heard from numerous knees when the more advanced members of the village XI crouch down in the slips on the opening day of the season Page 22 PETER RIDDELL

The Tory manifesto offered a plau-

sible plan for a further term in government, but the party still lacks a convincing re-election

OBITUARIES

The Rev J.N.D. Kelly, theologian; Martin Kippenberger, German artist; Donald Shepherd, inventor of the Portakabin....

27.1.22

Table 14.

Moral conduct of MPs; the last

airworthy Comet: Jewish settlements: controlling the car: economic optimism Page 23

🂢 Sunny

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Lightning

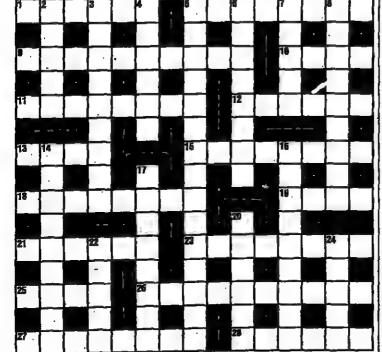
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,444



- ACROSS I Bone found in apostle's birth-
- 5 Adverse reaction produced by flogging? (8).
- 9 Draw at Tyburn see mob wild with excitement (10). 10 Motorist's signal that's extremely
- amusing (4). 11 Alter further, only after study (8).
- 12 Spirit bishop exercised from men's dormitory (6). 13 Spreading everywhere like wild-
- fire? (4).

right, perhaps? (8).

- 15 Team's outfit (8). 18 In France once, leaning to the
- 19 This sauce finishes off dishes to satisfy Asia (4).
- 21 Boy volunteers to hold a piece of music (6).
- 23 Bare citte not hard to crack? (8). Solution to Puzzle No 20,443

- 26 City whose bells grow silent (10). 27 Person advancing round a very fragrant shrub (8).
- 28 This plant when first open allowed scores of thieves in (6).

- 2 Burning with a strong indigna
- tion (5). 3 Dispatch spring flower (9).
- 4 Put down contracted sum of money payable (6). 5 Lawman's weapon gaining a sort
- of credibility with criminal (3.6,6). 6 Fall from mountain pass and expire (8).
- Composer king found hard to accept (5).
- 8 Philosopher comes to colleague with resignation (9).
- 14 Love what a Roman idol is holding up (9). 16 Young lady takes in the same, but
- wrong, suspects (9). . . 17 Fine and cold at first, wind
- erratically backed (8). 20 Fit for admittance (6).
- 22 Joint from an animal served up 24 Muslim females are kept in by
 - Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

General: southernmost parts should start the day dry and bright, but will become increasingly cloudy, perhaps with a shower in the east. Northern England will have some outbreaks of showery rain, which will spread southwards but will largely die

out before they reach southern areas. Northern Ireland and southern Scotland will start cloudy with out-breaks of rain, but the showery airstream affecting remaining parts of Scotland should soon arrive from the north. Some showers may be heavy and may fall as sleet or hall in the

London, SE England, Central S England: dry and bright at first, becoming more cloudy perhaps with patchy rain for a time. Wind mostly

westerly later. Max 14C (57F). ☐ E Anglia, E Midlands, E Eng-land, W Midlands, N Wales, Centrai N, NE England: cloudy at first with some patchy light rain. Becoming brighter with a few showers. Winds

west to northwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 12C (54F). ☐ Channel Isles, SW England, S

actor Rupert Graves

Waters rather cloudy with some patchy drizzle in places. Becoming brighter later. Winds west to northerly, moderate. Max 13C (55F). ☐ NW England, Lake District, lale of Man, Borders, SW Scotland, N freland: cloudy with patchy rain soon turning brighter with scattered show-

locally strong. Max 11C (52F). ☐ Edinburgh & Dundee, Glasgow, Argyfit bright or surny spells and showers. Winds northwesterly, fresh to strong. Max 10C (50F).

Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: sunny spells and showers, some heavy and wintry. Winds northwesterly, strong locally near gale. Max 9C (48F). Outlook rain at times across the North, mostly dry and bright in the

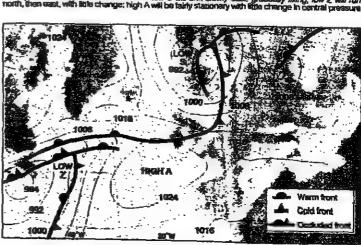
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



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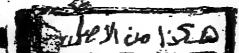
NOON TODAY Sunny shower



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HOURS OF DARKNESS London 7 37 pm to 6.29 am. Bristol 7 47 pm to 6 39 am.

Cellne



TIMES

INSIDE SECTION TODAY

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the thing

OLUMNS

I LETTS

CENTUARIES



BUSINESS

Biotech offers potent formula for investors PAGE 31



ARTS

The boy Colin Firth does good as an Arsenal fanatic **PAGES 35-37**



SPORT

Johnson handed leading role for Lions tour **PAGES 46-52**

TELEVISION AND RADIO **PAGES**

50, 51

THURSDAY APRIL 3 1997

City fears effects of boom in credit

By Alasdair Murray

CONSUMER credit rose by a record amount in February, increasing fears in the City that the economy is in danger of overheating.

Net consumer credit rose EL.22 billion in February, according to data published by the Bank of England, compared with £884 million the previous month and well above City expectations of an

increase of about £1 billion. The growth in credit card lending was also a record at E337 million, compared with E89 million in January.

Economists said the figures would increase the pressure on an incoming Chancellor of the Exchequer to raise rates after the general election although the Government insisted yesterday that the country is not returning to a boom-

and-bust economy.

The City is predicting that it may be necessary to raise rates by as much as 0.5 per cent immediately after the election if the new Chancellor is to establish credibility with

The growing concern about the threat of interest rate rises, coupled with continuing fears over the decline in Wall Street, prompted the FT-SE 100 index to slip 11.5 points to 4,236.6.

The rise in consumer and credit card borrowing reflected the surge in retail sales in February, when sales of clothing and footwear were especially strong. The annual rate

Prince al-Waleed buys 5% of Apple

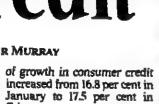
PRINCE al-Waleed bin Talal, the acquisitive Saudi investor, has snapped up 5 per cent of Apple Computer, the struggling personal computer manufacturer. He has spent \$115 million buying Apple shares in the open market in the past few weeks.

The move mirrors recent share purchases in Trans World Airlines (TWA), which left Prince al-Waleed holding a 5 per cent stake. He said, in a statement "I have been following the tasking of tasking of the tasking of tas following the technology industry closely for quite some time, and Apple in particular for a number of months. I believe there is serious potential for Apple to provide large returns to its shareholders once

again, as it did in the past." Larry Ellison, the flamboyant software tycoon, is tipped to be considering a bid for Apple, which has been hit by steep losses and a dwindling share price. Once America's most profitable PC maker. the company erred in re-stricting its software to its machines. This allowed Microsoft to steal a march with packages such as Windows 95. Apple reported losses of \$816 million in 1996, and was recently named one of

ng shares. Prince al-Waleed is consistently drawn to famous names that have seen better days. He holds investments in Euro Disney, Citicorp and Canary Wharf.

America's worst-perform-



February.

But the growth in total personal borrowing remained flat at 0.6 per cent in February, although the annual rate rose slightly, from 6.7 per cent to 6.9 per cent.

Economists said that the more modest rise in total personal borrowing suggested that the rise in consumer credit could in part reflect a change in patterns of payment rather than greatly increased

The surge in consumer bor rowing was not replicated in other monetary data published yesterday. This showed a small fall in the growth of mortgage lending and the narrow money supply.

Mortgage lending rose £1.83 billion, according to the Bank of England, slightly below the figure of £1.9 billion in January. The annual rate increased from 5 per cent, to 5.1 per cent, which remains well below the vels seen in ine late 19808

New mortgage commit-97,000 to 95,000 in February. The quarterly level of new showed a fall - for the first time since August 1985 suggesting that the increase in house prices could slow in the next few months.

M0, the measure of narrow money supply, increased 0.5 per cent in March, taking the annual rate to 6.4 per cent. The less erratic notes and coins component - which excludes banking operational annual advance of 6.4 per cent. The figures came in slightly below City expectations but were above the Government's target range of I to 4 per cent.

The growth in the broad money supply, M4, was meanwhile revised down, from 11.3 per cent to 11.2 per cent in February, compared with 10 per cent in January.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, said the money supply figures suggested that retail sales should moderate in the coming months and that fears of a consumer boom remained

He added that the annual growth in M0 had now fallen back to levels last seen in the first half of 1996 - when retail sales growth was about 2.5 per cent - suggesting that sales will slip back from the 4.4 per cent recorded in February.



The Madness of King George, starring Nigel Hawthorn, was a big hit at the box-office



Michelle Pfeiffer thrilled the Baker Boys





Carry On over at Cariton for the old comedy team that is currently popular in France

Going, going but no gong as Carlton seals Rank deal

BY ERIC REGULY

CARLTON, the ITV company, has paid £65 million for Rank Organisation's film dis-Expectations to The Fabulous Baker Boys. But the deal did not include the "gongman" that has provided the opening sequence for Rank films since 1935.

Rank is keeping the logo for including Pinewood Studios, Rank Film Laboratories and a video duplication businesses. It will allow Carlton to use the ongman logo only for the library's existing films and those in current production. Carlton said the Rank purchase was driven by the

its own film library as the number of television channels is set to balloon. Digital broadcasting will make hundreds of new channels available within a year and Carlton plans to draw on the Rank catalogue to feed the new digital terrestrial chan-nels it is developing for launch in 1998. Nigel Walmsley, chairman

of Cariton UK Television. said: "We are already in the business of managing a li-brary for broadcasters around the world. The Rank library is a natural extension of our business. It makes us more attractive as a one-stop shop for broadcasters."

The Rank catalogue has company's desire to expand

them from the 1930s, '40s and '50s. The titles include Oliver Twist, The Thirty Nine Steps and Olivier's Hamlet and Henry V. More recent films include the Carry On series, currently popular in France. The Shawshank Redemption and Fried Green Tomatoes.

Rank sold the business partly because it did not have the appetite to invest in new films to update the catalogue. The division had an operating profit of £4.1 million on turnover of £25.4 million last year. Andrew Teare, Rank's chief executive, said the sale largely completes its disposal pro-gramme, which has raised

Cellnet counts cost of cut-offs

CELLNET, the second largest mobile phone company, was in turmoil last night after reporting that it recruited only 12,000 customers in the first three months of the year, far behind the levels announced by even its smallest rivals.

The disappointing figures came three weeks after the abrupt departure of Howard Ford, the managing director, amid rumours that Project Force, Cellner's new £100 million billing system. was proving a failure. Mr Ford, a former IBM executive, was ultimately responsible for its implementation.

Cellnet, which is 60 per cent owned by British Telecom and 40 per cent by Securicor, attributed the low growth figures to the large-scale disconnection of customers who had not paid their bills. The credit problems were said to be worst at Securicor Cellular Services, the Securicor division that

sells Cellnet contracts. It also blamed Cellner's decision to allow customers to drop their service on one now has 2.7 million customers on its



Howard Ford: abrupt departure

actually signed up 273,000 customers in the first quarter; all but 12,000 of them left because they were disconnected for absence of payments, or because they dropped their service voluntarily. Cellnet month's notice instead of three. Cellnet analogue and digital networks, up 13 per

2.87 million UK-customers, Cellnet said it expects to "resume good

about £300 million.

growth" in the second quarter and confirmed that the new billing system is six months behind schedule. Orange and One-2-One, the smallest of the four mobile phone companies, announced better than expected growth figures as the market expanded.

One-2-One, which is owned equally by Cable and Wireless and US West, the regional phone company, gained 75,000 new customers in the quarter to March 31, up 114 per cent from the same period last year, taking its customer base to 620,000. Orange, which is controlled by Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong, took on 109,000 customers in the quarter, matching the

gains made previously and lifting its alldigital subscriber base to 894,000. Life Numbers, the company that sells the 07000 "follow me" phone numbers, said that its first-half loss will be greater than

GEC takes on Alcatel in bid battle for Thomson

GEC, the diversified industrial group, has delivered a blow to its partnership with the French group Alcatel-Alsthom by independently entering the bidding war for one of France's leading defence

GEC submitted a surprise £1.2 billion bid for Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics group, to the French Government last Friday — in direct competition with a bid by Alcatel. Lagardère Groupe, a parmer of BAe's missile division, is the third bidder for the 58 per cent Thomson stake to be privatised next month.

The move by GEC signals a shift in its strategy for European consolidation after its failed merger talks with British Aerospace.

The outcome of the privatisation is seen as crucial to the restructuring of the European defence industry and is likely to trigger further consolidation involving BAe as well as Aerospatiale and Dasa, its French and German rivals. The business paper La Tri-

which of the bids are considered valid and will be given further consideration. Le Monde said the GEC bid 2 because 11 undermined the French Government's plans for creating

bune said the French Govern-ment would decide tomorrow

London suggested that GEC's bid indicates growing frustration with its French partners. Plans for a split have been discussed after problems over co-operation on nuclear power. Alcatel could take control of GEC Alsthom's power engi neering business, with GEC holding the rail, shipbuilding and industrial interests. Serge Tchuruk, Alcatel's chairman, said recently that

the two groups would embark on a "fundamental reflection" on the future of GEC Alsthom. GEC yesterday failed to confirm or deny the bid reports while the French Fi-

nance and Economics Ministeries declined to comment on the existence of a third bidder. Both Lagardère and Alcatel had bid for Thomson in a previous procedure involving Thomson SA, Thomson-CSFs parent. The bidding was won by Lagardère with Daewoo Electronics, the Korean electronics group. But the French

Government cancelled the

deal last December after ob-

jections by the independent Privatisation Commission. Bidders have until May 7 to submit their final offers. Analysts in London said GEC's chances of winning the bidding were slim. The French Government has said it wants to create the biggest possible grouping around Thomson to

cut out duplication in research

and development funds and

boost economies of scale. So far the Government's attitude has been that non-French groups are welcome only as subordinates. In response, GEC recently started to look towards other European countries to forge to links.

Lagardère said it was aware of GEC's bid. Noel Forgeard. managing director of Lagardère's Matra Defense Espace unit, said: "GEC has always shown interest in the Thomson privatisation.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

LONDON MONEY

New York:

DOLLAR 1.6758° 5.5435° 1.4437° 122,70° 103.7 Tokyo ciose Yan 122,28

MORTH SEA OIL Brent 15-day (Jun) \$19.10 (\$19.25)

Landon close \$350.8\$ (\$350.45)

Market goal

Bolton Wanderers, one of the founding clubs of the Football League, is to join the stock market. Dealings in Newcastle United started and Derby County also revealed a float. Page 29

Unco-operative

Terry Thomas, managing director of the Co-operative Bank, said its parent company had no intention of opening takeover talks with Lanica, the family investment trust run by Andrew Regan.

Could now be the time you started a Pension?

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BASF confident as

orders start to rise

BASF, the German chemicals company, expects to post stronger earnings and an increase in sales because of the

global recovery. The company said sales this year are

expected to exceed DM49 billion after rising 5.5 per cent to

DM48.77 billion in 1996, when pre-tax profits climbed 6.9 per cent to DM4.4 billion. BASF, the last of Germany's

three chemical giants to report its 1996 results, said 1997

had started strongly as orders rose compared with the end

It said it expects stronger domestic demand, marking an

improvement from sluggish economic conditions in Germany which kept a lid on domestic sales last year.

Sales climbed only 28 per cent to DM12.97 billion in

Germany. In March BASF's rivals. Hoechst and Bayer,

disappointed the markets with weak fourth-quarter

earnings and a subdued outlook that sent chemical industry shares spinning.

ASPREY, the luxury jeweller and accessories group, has snatched a senior executive from Liberty to run its London

and overseas operations. Geoffrey Lang joins on April 21

and overseas operations. Geomey Lang Joins on April 21 as managing director for Asprey London and International. Mr Lang replaces Tim Cooper, who is stepping down ahead of his retirement later this year. The appointment is the latest in a round of management changes at Asprey. Barbara Snoad joined as retail director last month and Maria Sealy joined as marketing director in January.

Asprey appointment

US orders increase

AltaVista deal lifts **MAID**

Shares in MAID rose 5p to 200p after the group announced a joint technology initiative with AltaVista Internet Software, the largest data engine group on the Internet. MAID said: "The agreement will result in one of the world's fastest and most accurate data retrieval engines for business applications."

Lands ahead

Lands improvement, the agricultural landowner. yesterday reported a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profts from £3.2 million to £4.1 million for the year ended December 31. A total dividend of 4.7p (4.7p) will be paid on May 31.

Brooks rises

Brooks Services Group, the Bristol textile rental and retail services company, yesterday reported a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £1.1 million to £1.2 million. The final dividend of 2.3p, payable on June 3, raises the total by 17 per cent to 3.5p (3p).

UDO falls

Pre-tax profits at UDO Holdings, the office sup-plies and reprographic services group, have fallen by 28.3 per cent from £3.17 million to £2.27 million for the six months to December 31. The dividend has been maintained at 2.75p. to be paid on May 23.

Chief resigns

Pittard, the leather group, said Aldan Creedon, its deputy group managing director has resigned as a director and was leaving the company yesterday to pursue personal interests.

Heinz sale

Heinz, the food group, is to sell its Tip Top New Zealand ice cream operations to Australia's Peters & Brownes for an undis-

Grafton buys

Grafton Group has bought Wessex Bullders Merchants for up to £4 million

Lanica left out in cold as Society subsidiary unveils record results

Co-op Bank rises for third year

By Robert Miller BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TERRY THOMAS, managing director of the Co-operative Bank, unveiled a third consecutive year of record profits and confirmed that the Co-operative Wholesale Society, its parent company, had no intention of opening possible take-over talks with Lanica, the family investment trust run by Andrew Regan.

Mr Thomas said the Co-op Bank, which lifted pre-tax profits 24 per cent to £45.5 million, had seen "a phenome-

Trading is

halted in

Bre-X shares

BY GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in Bre-X, the Cana-

dian gold company, stopped trading on the Toronto stock

exchange yesterday because of technical problems at the ex-

change that followed a fall of 65 cents to C\$3.20 in very

heavy trading. The Toronto exchange said: "The stock is unavailable because of techni-

cal problems."

The fail followed a pro-nouncement from the Indone-

sian Mining Minister that there was gold at Bre-X's site

at Busang, but that the actual amount had yet to be

The Minister also said there

would be a parliamentary

hearing during June to discuss

the fate of the applications for contracts by Bre-X to further

explore and develop the

Busang find. The applications

have been put on hold by the

ascertained.

nal" increase in retail and corporate business from its larger high street rivals. There are, he added, no benefits to be derived from talking to Lanica, whose shares were suspended in February at £19.50 after takeover talk caused a sharp price rise. Mr Thomas, who retires in

October after ten years at the bank's helm, said of Lanica: "I look to the moment when their shares are re-listed. Shareholders should sell and sell early as they are likely to drop like a stone. I wouldn't give you thruppence for them."

Lanica and Galileo, its shell takeover company backed by Jupiter Asset Management, Schroders and Killick, the stockbroker, declined to reply to the the Co-op's comments yesterday. It is understood that Mr Regan has applied to the Bank of England to be dremed a "fit and proper" person to own the Co-op bank

should a takeover materialise. City observers point out that Mr Regan has never expressed a desire to be a banker and Bank approval would be necessary even if the Co-op were to be immediately sold on.

The Co-op Bank reported retail customer deposits up 27 per cent last year. They now stand at £2.4 billion, double the level five years ago. Total assets rose to £4.5 billion. The bank also announced details of a three-year no-compulsoryredundancy agreement with Bifu, the banking, finance and insurance union.

Ray Shuttleworth, Bifu's assistant secretary, said of the Lanica offer of talks: The Cooperative bank is unique in Britain and we want its difference to be protected." He added that the union welcomed the Co-op's statement that a Regan takeover is

Mr Thomas said the Co-op Bank was halfway through a reorganisation that would bring "automated" banking outlets that would provide a 24hour service. He added: "We are building a bank to compete fiercely in the 21st century by providing the anytime, any where hanking service that the increasingly sophisticated Individual and corporate custom-

ers demand."

Pennington, page 29

Lloyd's in repeat of **£lbn** profit

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London, which incurred huge losses in the late 1930s and early 1990s, said preliminary pre-tax profits for 1994 exceeded El billion for the

second year running.

The figures, reflecting the year in which corporate capital took hold at Lloyd's, compare with a profit of ELOS3 billion in 1993. The prelimi-nary result is based on an initial review of syndicate returns, together with market

Lloyd's publishes its results three years in arrears. The corporation forecast a profit for the 1994 pure underwriting year of £1.008 million, based on a less favourable dollar enchange rate. Final figures will be published in early

Rates in the marine market peaked towards the end of 1994, but the large amounts of capacity flooding in led to rate reductions in most sectors in 1995. Non-marine was anticipating a good profit in 1994 despite some effect from the Northridge earthquake in California and robust competition from worldwide direct and

The aviation market enjoyed modest rate rises throughout 1994. After a cyclical peak in 1993, motor rates experienced downward pressure throughout 1994, and remain under pressure, fueled by the emergence of aggressive direct players.

reinsurance markets.

US FACTORY orders rose 0.8 per cent in February after a surge of 2.5 per cent in January, the Commerce Department said yesterday. Wall Street analysts had foreseen an increase in February of I per cent. Orders for durable goods went up 1.5 per cent in February while those for non-durables gained 0.1 per cent in reprusity write triose for non-durantes games 0.1 per cent. February factory orders were up 7.8 per cent year-on-year. Excluding transportation, factory orders rose 1.6 per cent in February, against 2.6 per cent in January. Manufacturing inventories rose 0.4 per cent, against 0.5 per cent in January. Radamec 28% ahead RADAMEC GROUP, a maker of high-tech equipment for broadcasting and defence, lifted pre-tax profits 28 per cent, to £1.72 million, from £1.34 million, in the year to December 31. Earnings per share rose 26 per cent, to 6.2p (4.9p). Turnover was up 32 per cent, to £16.5 million (£12.46 million). Sales were boosted by a new virtual reality TV studio system, Virtual Scenario, and contracts to supply electro-optical equipment to the Indian Coastguard and the Royal Navy. A 2p final dividend, due on July 4, makes 3p, up from 24p.

Bickerton joins AIM

BICKERTON GROUP, the building contractor, is joining the. Alternative Investment Market via a placing of up to 5.102 million ordinary shares at 40p. The issue has been oversubscribed and dealings are to start tomorrow. The board will speak for 68 per cent of the equity. The business, founded in 1930, passed from family ownership in 1985. Ken Wilkins and family trusts acquired a majority stake in 1992. The group, headed by Mr Wilkins and Bob Morton, acquired the name, contracts and goodwill of Hatfield Construction in 1993.

Barr raises dividend

BARR and Wallace Arnold Trust, the motor retail and leisure group, lifted pre-tax profits to £5.3 million, from £4.6 million, in the year to December 31. Earnings per share rose to 23.4p. from 20.8, and the year's dividend rises by 9.1 per cent, to 12p. David Winterbottom, chairman, said: "Our businesses still trade in difficult conditions with the economic recovery not reflected through into retail sales in our areas of operation." The motor division had started the current year well, and leisure bookings were ahead of 1996 and 1995, he said.

Ultra on acquisition trail Ida Bagus Sudjana, the Minister, said: "We believe there is gold there ... (but) whether the amount is 50 or 70 BY OUVER AUGUST million ounces, we have yet to its technology base and its market breadth." ULTRA ELECTRONICS, the tion so soon after last year's check it out." flotation. Peter Macfariane, chairman, said: "Ultra's pos-Bre-X, which discovered the aerospace components company, is seeking acquisitions to complement its current Busang deposit, said last week In the year to December 30. that the property might hold less than the 71 million ounces ition in niche markets, its pre-tax profits increased from strong alliances and teaming E6.4 million to £14.1 million. position as supplier on major projects such as the Euro-fighter and Nimrod. arrangements leave it well placed to benefit from the Earnings per share rose from 6.9p to 15.1p. No dividend will of gold it had declared previously. The admission came a week after Michael de Guz-Ultra, whose chief executive continued consolidation takbe paid but an interim diviman, the Bre-X chief geologist ing place in the industry. "This should provide opis Julian Blogh, emphasised dend is planned for next year. who helped to discover the its interest in American rather deposit, fell out of a helicopter than European electronics portunities for further strate-

on his way to Busang. An autopsy report is awaited. businesses and stated its intentions to avoid diversifica-

gic acquisitions, which should enable Ultra to expand both

Julian Blogh, chief executive of Ultra, which is interested in buying US businesse

The orderbook stands at a record £174.1 million.

Tempus, page 30

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Trafficmaster system licensed to Germany By Fraser Nelson

sprang from a 12-month low esterday as the company sealed a deal to license its traffic jam warning systems to Mannesmann Autocom, the German telecoms group.

The company, whose conestion detectors already cover British motorways, said that the deal establishes its technology as the European standard. The shares rose 32p, to 307p.

Mannesmann is joining

forces with Deutsche Telecom.

and aims to cover 75 per cer of Germany's motorways by next summer. The two w then sell the dashboard tech nology as compenitors. Trafficmaster is expected

receive £2 million from th installation, and £3 million year after German drives start buying the system.
Trafficmaster is expected to

announce, on Monday, a 199 pre-tax loss of £1.5 million (1995: loss of £2.48 million).

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Denmark Kr	11.03	10.23	Portugal Eso	267.00	26
Finland Mick	8.69	6.04	S Africa Rd	7.87	_
France Fr	9.65	9.00	Spain Pta	243.50	22
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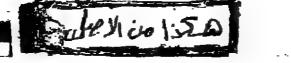
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SHARES in Trafficmaster its rival, to plant the detectors,



☐ The Richard Branson approach, Saudi-style ☐ Spottiswoode decision has wide implications ☐ Banking on leadership

A prince among investors

ANOTHER WEEK, another few hundred million dollars ... Prince al-Waleed bin Talal is beginning to resemble one of those American billionaires who profited so handsomely from the 1929 Crash. As stockbrokers leapt from the windows, the opportunists were waiting with their cheque books, ready to

capitalise on the market panic. Astute, of course, but will the same prove true for Prince al-Waleed? His reputation as a canny investor is so far intact his stakes in Citicorp and Euro Disney have proved their worth - but could he be heading for a fall? In the past three weeks, he has taken a stake in Trans World Airlines (TWA), announced a \$600 million hotels deal with Lonrho, paid \$20 million for 5 per cent in Norwegian Cruise Line, and spent \$115 million buying shares in Apple Computer. Surely there is a danger

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that he will trip himself up? Not necessarily. For a start, the prince appears to have something of which Western moguls can only dream - access to a limitless supply of cash. He seemed to have little trouble stumping up £104 million for the Hotel George V in Paris. His timely arrival at Euro Disney five years old next week - did not prompt questions about his credit-worthiness. His Middle Eastern assets, spanning construction, retailing and banking, are worth a reputed \$4 billion, so one can only guess at the amounts sloshing around.

Secondly, Prince al-Waleed adopts what could be dubbed the "Richard Branson" approach to business. He makes shrewd use of advisers, understands the value of a brand, and is careful to spread his risks. Witness the investment in Silvio Berlusconi's television empire, in which the prince was just part of a £700 million consortium. Ditto the Reichmann-led consortium that paid £800 million for Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

TWA and Apple undoubtedly come at the riskier end of the investment spectrum, but could yield spectacular returns in the longer term. Apple, for one, has a great brand name, and an association with excellence, even if it lost its way when the personal computer market shifted from manufacturers, such as IBM, to software houses such as Microsoft, Prospects must be reasonable, whatever the outcome of Larry Ellison's long-rumoured \$1 billion punt. As it is, Prince al-Waleed's

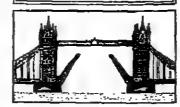
legacy has become almost self-fulfilling. The mere hint that he is on board is enough to make people sit up and pay attention. The downside, of course, is that his name is now routinely mentioned when any big hotel investment comes up for grabs - look at the fuss over the Savoy last

year - but he can live with that. The only odd move so far has been the link-up with Michael Jackson, which turns on vague plans for a multi-media entertainment company based on family values". Hotels, fine. Airlines, no problem. But family values? Perhaps this is one idea that is best forgotten.

Pressure still on **British Gas**

TWELVE months ago. domestic gas competition was pioneered in the South West. Great things were hoped for by a government determined to inject competition into household energy supply. Exposing British Gas (now Centrica) to rivals would reduce prices and set in place a system in which gas

PENNINGTON



suppliers would fight each other for business.

Has it worked? That is what

the Director-General of Gas Supply must decide when she rules on whether Centrica can offer special local price discounts and start to claw back market share. In order to sanction such a move Clare Spottiswoode must be satisfied that a competitive market has been established. If it hasn't, and British Gas prices are cut, many of the companies vying for its business with cheaper tariffs may soon burn out. To the many people who still look upon the British Gas brand as the gas board, the lack of much price incentive to change will persuade them to stay.

Anything less than full com-

petition in the market in its early stages will not ensure proper competition when the whole country is able to choose. A year on, British Gas retains 80 per cent of the South West's households despite other companies offering rariff discounts of 20 per cent on its prices. Pessimistic rumours suggest that some rivals may not trade in the South West for much longer as they struggle to make returns on low customer numbers. British Gas's nearest rival has just 82 per cent

of the market. Centrica has decided for itself that competition is established and has already offered a discount to direct debit customers. When British Gas's hold was prised from the industrial market, it was made to lose 60 per cent market share in the larger market and 45 per cent in the smaller business sector before it could cut prices.

Such restraints were imposed to foster competition in an area that is far less brand loyal and far less nervous of change than the average homeowner. Ms Spottiswoode may well feel that Centrica should be forced to see at least half of its customers disappear before it can be said to competing with its rivals on anything like equal terms.

Better choice for the Co-op

THE Co-operative Bank unveiled a healthy 20 per cent return on shareholder funds yesterday. Together with a 24 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, it shows that taking a strong chical line and holding to a policy of not being all things to all people's banking needs can pay handsome dividends. Terry Thomas, the bank's

managing director, says he can provide people with an alter-native service to those of the big clearers and still be a hard-nosed hanker. Co-op rejects 40 per cent of all credit card applicants and has cut staff from 4,500 to 3,250 - a level which has begun to climb again and now stands at 3,900. All this might attract little attention outside banking had the Co-op bank not been caught up in a putative takeover of its parent by Lanica, a family trust

run by young Andrew Regan, through a company called Galileo. The Co-op movement has closed ranks and refused even to have talks about talks.

Much is made of Regan's supposed desire to asset strip and sell-off chunks such as funerals, farming and foods. So what happens to the banking jewel in Co-op's crown? Co-op directors are paid to look after the interests of all members. They should address urgently the poor performance elsewhere. This does not mean the movement would serve its members well by being broken up and sold off piecemeal.

What the movement needs now is some sterling leadership. Mr Thomas is to stand down from the bank in October. He looks an ideal choice to turn round the wider business.

Team spirit

☐ THE rush to market by football clubs is creating some strange businesses. Premiership struggler Southampton has aptly teamed up with a former specialist in retirement homes. Yes terday Bolton Wanderers sealed a reverse takeover by Mosaic Investments, previously known for spirits measures and a stake in Copyright Promotions, which sells the rights to The Simpsons, Star Wars and Mr Men.



Charles Wightman, right, and Aidan Connolly, finance director, expect to take advantage of improving markets

Profits slip at Walker Greenbank

WALKER GREENBANK, the wall coverings and fabrics group, suffered a 6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £9 million for the year to Janu-ary 31 despite iifting sales 5 per cent to £100.9 million (Chris Ayres writes).

Charles Wightman, chief executive, was bullish about the year ahead, saying: "I am disappointed that a drop in demand in certain of our markets has temporarily undermined our trading performance.

"However, our extensive capital investment programme and the restructuring of our cost base have positioned us well to take advantage of markets which

A final dividend of 24p a share, due July 8, maintains the total dividend at 3.7p, payable from earnings that fell to 5p from 5.6p.

British Midland chooses Airbus

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

BRITISH MIDLAND yesterday chose Airbus jets to be the mainstay of its fleet into the next century - breaking Boeing's dominance and giving the European Airbus consortium its biggest British sales boost.

In a deal worth more than \$1 billion, the airline is to take delivery of eight 196-seat Airbus A321s and twelve 160-seat A320s. Twelve will be leased from the manufacturer and eight will be bought.

The order is the largest ever by a British carrier for aircraft built by the European consortrum, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake. The choice of engines will be

finalised later and is likely to involve as fierce a competition as that over the aircraft. Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, said:

"This order is a significant

vote of confidence in the future of our business and the future of European aviation." Boeing and Airbus had been

locked in a bitter sales battle. with Boeing offering both the new 737-800 jetliner and the Boeing 757 to give British Midland a range of options over the size of aircraft in its

However, Airbus clinched the deal by giving the airline the option of upgrading the A320 to the larger A321 without penalty should demand for capacity exceed the airline's present forecasts.

British Midland has a fleet of 35 jets, of which 27 are Boeing 737s. The first of the new jets will be delivered in 1998, and, as the others are delivered over the following five years, the older Boeings will be phased out and replaced by Airbus jets.

Managers buy Adas for £16.3m

ADAS, the Government's agricultural advisory agency, has been bought by its man-agement for £16.3 million (Fraser Nelson writes).

The agency, which provides research, consultancy and laboratory facilities to the agriculture industry, has openly advocated its pri-vatisation. The buyout was led by Philip Needham, its current chief executive, who will share a 20 per cent stake with the management team. He will be joined by Bob Hart and Cyril Davies.

Mr Needham said: "Since we became a Government Executive Agency in 1992, we have become more competitive and have successfully found new customers. The privatisation, from our point of view, is the culmination of years of effort which we are delighted to see rewarded." The deal was partly funded by 31, the venture capi-

Bolton Wanderers to head for stock market

BOLTON WANDERERS, one of the founding clubs of the Football League, is set to become the latest team to join the stock market in a reverse takeover that will value the club at £22 million.

Bolton has agreed a deal with Mosaic Investments, the bar and catering products company, with the club's return to the Premiership virtu-

ally guaranteed. Terms of the deal were

BY ROBERT MILLER

INSURERS and mortgage

lenders are failing when it

comes to dealing with com-plaints by the public, accord-

ing to a survey out today from

the Consumers' Association.

premium on the first day of retail park on the edge of the trading and Derby County revealed it is seeking a £15 million institutional placing ahead of a flotation.

The enlarged group will be renamed Burnden Leisure, after the club's old ground, and will be aiming to develop as a diverse sports and leisure

No fresh money will be raised in the flotation, but Mosaic has a cash balance of £8.9 million, which will be made available for transfer disclosed as shares of deals and for the completion of Newcastle United rose to a new 25,000-seat stadium and

Mortgage moans muffled

of Conduct, backed by banks

and building societies, should help, but "the Association of

British Insurers needs to do

The Which? survey found

that current accounts and

mortgages were the products

more to help consumers".

will hold a stake of around 8 town. David Williams, chairper cent in the new company man of Mosaic, said the new and will become chief executive company is keen to use the of Burnden Leisure. Sue Ball. leisure facilities at the stadium currently finance director at in the widest possible way. He Mosaic will become the is hopeful that it can become a venue for pop concerts and is examining the possibility of group's finance director and Mr Williams will become investing in other sports such chairman. Shares in Mosaic are cur-

as rugby league.

Mosaic is offering 1,135 shares for every Bolton ordinary share, leaving Bolton shareholders with 67 per cent of the capital of the new

company.

Gordon Hargreaves, the

were usually about errors,

Which? says that if com-

plaints are not resolved at the

first attempt a third of people give up, and says that the

message that ombudsmen ex-

ist is not getting through.

and mortgage complaints tended to be of misleading

advice, Which? says.

at the end of the month. Shares in Newcastle United rose 5p in first day of trading to close at 140p, ensuring the club instantly became the second most valuable on the stock market with a capitalisation of £200 million. The largest is Manchester United. The flotation raised £54 mil-

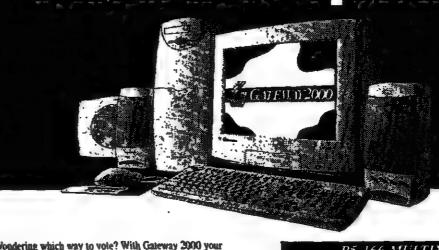
rently suspended at 512p.

with trading in Burnden Lei-

sure expected to recommence

tion, which will be used to repay debt, future installments of transfer fees and develop youth facilities. Newcastle, which has not made a profit in the past five years, has spent nearly £50 million in that time on stars such as Alan Shearer. Les Ferdinand and David

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EUROPE'S FULL CIRCLE

by Rodney Atkinson

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Buoyant Yule Catto eyes acquisitions

By MARTIN BARROW

YULE CATTO & Company. the speciality chemicals and building products company. has reported a 10.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in 1996 and says that it continues to evaluate potential acquisitions.

Pre-tax profits rose to £36.45 million, from £33.12 million. on turnover slightly down to £383.85 million, from £390.77 million. There was modest improve-

ment in volumes, but turnover declined in line with selling prices, which benefited from lower material input costs. After two years of extreme volatility, prices of key chemical feedstocks have stabilised at much lower levels, letting margins show some recovery. Speciality chemicals had a

successful year, with most businesses making higher profits. Plant improvements initiated in the past three years are now largely complete and a lower level of maintenance capital is now forecast. Building products showed a

slight improvement in overall profits, although one or two poor performers masked a significant increase from the strunger operations. Earnings per share rose to 22.7p, from 20.3p. A 5.4p final

dividend makes 9p. up 12.5 per cent Lord Catto, chairman, said that the company had made a satisfactory start to the current year and that prospects appeared reasonable, in spite of the strength of sterling.



CLARE STEWART

Second-liners shine as investors stay nervous

SECOND-LINE shares stole what limited stock market glory there was on offer in yesterday's bumpy conditions. FT-SE 250 companies outshone the top 100 to mop up a fair proportion of investors' money after a batch of good results caught the City's

Among the 250 leaders, Hewden Stuart saw its shares jump 11 per cent, a rise of 13p to 13912p after an upbeat comment on current year prospects and positive talk from brokers.

There was a hefty volume of over eight million shares in Premier Oil as buyers moved in after recent press comment and a broker's recommendation. The shares were pushed 212p higher to 3912p. Overall it was a day that

could be described as one of three halves as the market waited to see which way the US would jump.

Morning trading saw the

FT-SE 100 climb to an 18-point rise before early afternoon itters knocked confidence and left the market nursing a 29point fall.

Despite an opening slide on Wall Street. London clawed back some ground to end 11.5 points lower at 4,236.6 on relatively modest volumes of just over 700 million shares.

Dealers are bracing themselves for further volatility, particularly with key US employment data due tomorrow. After Tuesday's fallout, UK blue-chip stocks recovered

some of their poise to notch up modest gains. Leading the way among the top 100 shares was GEC, up by 712p to 383p. with dealers responding both to hopes of defence orders and later hope for the group's bid for Thomson, the French electronics giant. EMI, the music group, re-

covered more ground, ending with a 16p rise to £11.60. A broker's recommendation helped to fuel demand, with talk also of the Spice Girl effect once again boosting demand. Reed International, the publishing group, was also sought after favourable City

comment and bid rumours resurfacing once again. The shares ended 9p higher at £11.0112 after slipping back from earlier gains. British Steel saw some ac-

shares changed hands, though the share price edged just 14p



Mobile phone numbers grow and share prices rise

valumes of over 18 million. Mobile phone groups switched on to rising subscriber figures. Orange, the UK's third largest operator, moved nearer the one millon mark after lifting subscriber numbers to \$94,000. Orange slid back from earlier gains to end 112p higher at 20812p, while Vodafone, which revealed its subscriber levels earlier in the

has netted over £300 million and there could be more to

Banks and insurance groups started well, but ended on a weak note. GRE earned the FT-SE 100 wooden spoon with a drop of 7p to 27112p. while NatWest Bank ended

14p lower at 67912p. Newcastle United made a less-striking debut than ex-

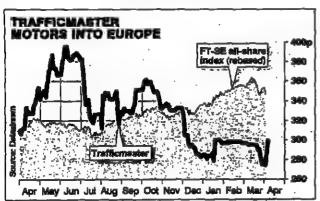
Shares in Sema, the software group, dipped 24p to 1340p after a placing of five million shares, around 5.3 per cent of its share capital formerly held by Schneider. Also, yesterday, the OFT said that it was looking into Sema's acquisition of British Rail Business Systems, to see whether a reference to the MMC was required.

week, moved up 212p to 278p. Cable and Wireless added 112p to 49112p after its One-2-One service added 75,000 subscribers in the first quarter, taking it to a total of 620,000.

Rank's £65 million disposal of its film distribution arm to Carlton Communications was well received. Rank shares rose 7p to 42712p, while Carlton added 312p to 51912p. Rank's recent run of disposals

pected, moving to a modest 5p premium on the 135p placing price as over eight million shares changed hands.

Trafficmaster, the traffic information group, accelerated 32p to 307p, a new high this year, after announcing the licensing of its system into Germany through an agreement with Mannesmann Autocom. The move marks Trafficmaster's first step into



Europe, where it has its sights set on the French and Dutch markets for 1998.

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MAJOR CHANGES

Closing Prices Page 33

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Oil and gas stocks experienced mixed fortunes in the volatile market. BP recovered some ground to end 912p lower at 696p, while Shell was off 5p at £10.5412 after a fall in the price of crude.

Among exploration groups. Cairn Energy dug up a 10p rise to 584 ap. Hardy Oil flared 7p higher to 292p on news of a new gasfield dev-elopment, and British Borneo leapt 542p to £15.42.

Reports of busy Easter trad-ing helped Country Gardens. the garden centre group, to a new high on AIM as its shares jumped 17p to 19912p. Pathfinder Properties, a more recent AIM entrant, moved up 11¹2p to 35p. Shares in Johnston Press.

the regional newspaper group, moved up 5p to 1911 ap after announcing a 43 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year. Among electronics groups, Amstrad gave up early gains in the wake of its Dancall disposal, to end 4p lower at 21712p, while a 25 per cent ump in pre-tax profits at Radamec pushed shares 7p righer to 10712p.

AIM-quoted Interoute Teleommunications saw its shares dive 41p to a new low of 6112p. The fall came after the company announced increased losses of £2.5 million for a nine-month period.

Yule Catto, the chemicals group, fell back 13p to 35412p after profits disappointed the market, while UDO Holdings also failed to impress and ended 15p lower at 1571 ap. ☐ GILT-EDGED: Calmer conditions were restored to the London market yesterday

some of the ground lost earlier

in the week was recovered. The market outperformed a number of its European counterparts. In gilt futures, volume at 40,000 contracts remained relatively low as investors held back ahead of key economic data due from the US tomorrow. The June series of the long gilt finished up £432 at £1081932. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 closed up £1s at £102316, while Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was up E14 at

□ NEW YORK: Shares held insses at mid-session after the blue chips failed to gather steam. The Dow Jones indus-COMBONICHANCIAL FUTURES

German Govt Bond (Bund)

MAJOR INDICES **TEMPUS** New York (midday):

Best defence is to attack 18037.30 (+167.71) has apparently made an offer for the French Government's stake in Thomson CSF, the defence electronics group. There are two reasons to be delighted by

this move. Of course, GEC has not a hope of winning the prize - the French Government has grudgingly indicated that foreigners may take minority positions in group bids. That concession was only granted after Lagardère's bid for the Thomson group failed. The bid fell victim to Gallic fears that Lagardère's Korean partner, Daewoo, could not be trusted to cherish the loss-making TV

maker, Thomson Multimedia. The first bit of good news is that GEC is making purposeful moves to set the pace in the long-delayed shake-out among European defence contractors. Impatience with the slow

NOTHING is officially confirmed, but GEC progress in France pushed GEC into a collaboration agreement last month with Finmeccanica, the Italian state-controlled defence contractor. But for GEC, the prize is still a combination of Marconi and Thomson CSF, which would open the door to huge savings in product design and production. By launching its bid, GEC is forcing the French Government to confront the real issue. Is it prepared to relinquish national control over its defence industry or allow it to wither and die in the face of superior US competition?

The choice will be all the more embarrassing as GEC, with its £2 billion cash pile, can well afford to outbid French rivals. In the end. a formula will be found to conceal the pink faces in the Elysee palace while allowing GEC a minority share in a bid, but the agonising contortions in Paris will be fun to watch.

Rank

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RECENT ISSUES

590 61's

RANK has finished overhauling its portfolio. Gone are Cinema Media, the cinema advertising company, and, as of yesterday, Rank Film Distributors, owner of the largest independent film library in the land. On the way out is the remaining

stake in Rank Xerox. What remains can loosely be described as an entertainment business, comprised of the Hard Rock cafes. bingo clubs, casinos, leisure centres and Odeon cinemas, and a film services division, including Pinewood Studios and a film processing company.

While the slimmed down group perhaps makes more strategic sense, it is hard to identify the engine of growth. The Hard Rock cales have the greatest potential, but many of their outlets are undergoing costly reno-

vations, and the proliferation of themed restaurants is threatening a glut on the eateries market. Planet Hollywood and the Harley-Davidson Cafe are two rivals

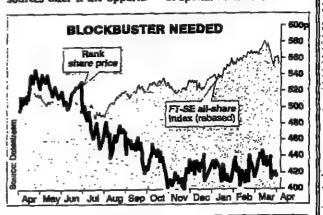
Rank's immediate growth prospects are less than tantalising, but its cash resources offer it the opportu-

international

with

nity to buy a substantial new business to restore its fortunes. Finding the right business could take some time. and there are few bargains on the market.

in the meantime, shareholders must hope that some of the cash generated by the disposals will be returned in the form of share buybacks or special dividends.



Mobile Phones

ORANGE and Mercury One-2-One were trumpeting their first-quarter subscrip tion figures, leaving poor old Celinet looking rather frail. Cellnet suffered the indignity of some 259,000 disconnections during the period, leaving its net connections up only 12,000. However, the comparison is not entirely fair. There are important reasons why Celinet is suffering so much churn, reasons that may be a warning to other mobile phone

operators.
Cellnet's service providers have been cracking down on non-payers, disconnecting customers with bad debts more quickly than had hitherto been the practice. That is good news for the industry the aggressive marketing and easy payment terms for mobile phones were running ine risk di encouragi sumer contempt for a commodity service. More

aggressive treatment of non-

payers might persuade cusomers that the bleeping handsets have some value. But Celinet's churn has a

lot to do with the age of its subscriber base. Loss of customers generally occurs after the first year of the contract and logically, a new operator such as Orange has a lot of new subscribers. As its customer base matures, it, too, will suffer more churn. This is a problem for an industry which, so far, has failed to generate much customer

Ultra Electronics

FLOTATIONS share at least one trait with cooking - timing is all. Float a company into a recession and gold dust will turn to sand but a risky share issued into a rising market will be swept even higher. Ulpeccable timing. Floated last year, it is supported by rising profits and a growing order

book due to the upturn in the aerospace industry. Even if black clouds still lurk on the horizon.

Ultra's business cycle is closely aligned with that of aerospace contractors. Chronically cyclical, aerospace is enjoying another ascent, which is expected to last another three to four years and Ultra supplies the Eurofighter, Nimrod and Airbus superjumbo projects. But the Eurofighter and

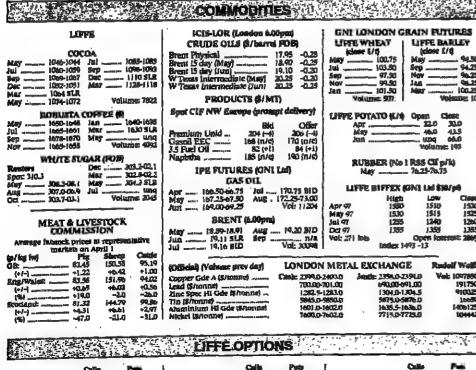
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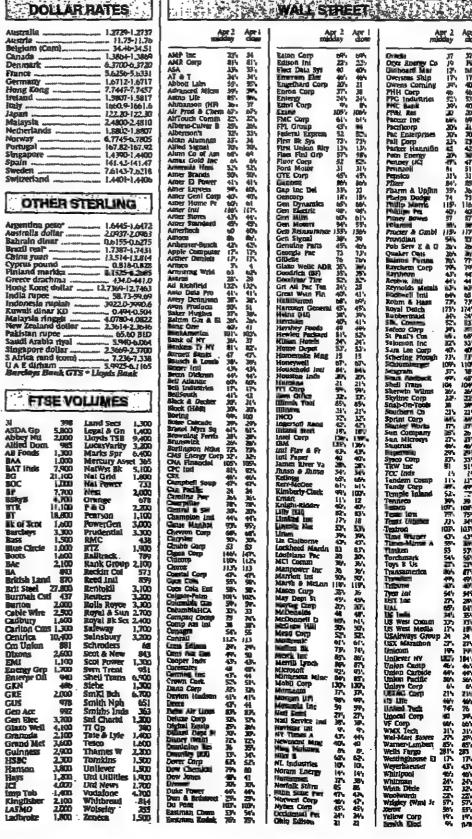
the superjumbo have yet to win production approval. Good timing will not protect Ultra's share price if one of the mainstay projects is can-celled or delayed. Meanwhile, Ultra is on the acquisition trail. Rather than permanently teaming up with British or European partners in the current climate of consolidation, Ultra wants to build its own little empire. If all goes well, the but so are the risks.

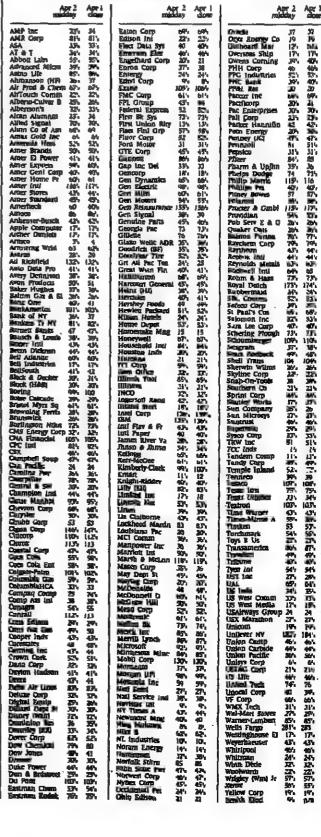
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I hanges in personal income tax allow-

exciting promise ever to be made in a

party manifesto. More radical changes have been pushed through, without fanfare, in

the course of annual Budgets, as in 1984 or in 1990, when separate taxation of spouses

was brought in. But how wonderful it would

be if the election focused on competition between the Tory slogan of making haves

of the have-nots" and Labour's giving "a

Government gobbles up and disgorges

about 40 per cent of our income, has done

for years and is likely to continue doing so

for years. But you would not think so from

the cuts forever being announced in depart-

mental budgets. The central issue of tax and

spending is how to break the vicious circle.

Rising numbers need to claim means-tested

benefits, which puts upward pressure on

taxation and continuous downward pres-

If being poor means needing help from

taxpayers to meet the necessaries of life, then

poverty has been growing apace. Up to one in three families draws some means-tested

benefit. Social security spending has grown

from less than 5 per cent of national income

in the early days to 12 per cent now. That

includes basic state pension and child

benefit, the main universal transfers, but

these have been shrinking relative to the

economy in recent years. The welfare state

has picked up the pieces from increased

competition and a more deregulated free

hand-up rather than a handour".

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Election brief for solicitor

THOSE kind souls at Mc-Kennas have allowed one of their top solicitors temporary leave to fight the general election.

For the bulk of this month, until the day that the City law firm merges with Cameron Markby Hewitt, Shailesh Vara. 33. will be rallying for support as Conservative candidate Birmingham Ladywood.

Described by Kenneth Clarke as "brilliant" and by Lord Alexander of Weedon as a potential prime minister, Vara is preparing to do battle with Clare Short MP, on the day that his firm becomes Cameron McKenna.

Vara's secretary, meanwhile, will be packing files into boxes on May i. moving their office from Mitre Court to Sceptre Court

Cover Price

AFTER an acquisitive year for Johnston Press, it was inevitable that the question of disposals would arise at yesterday's results meeting. Fred Johnston, chairman of the local newspaper publishers, who built up the family business and moved it to Edinburgh from its 19th century roots in Falkirk, took the opportunity to show that a proprietor can have a sentimental streak, as well as a sense of humour. Declining to rule out the possibility of shedding a title or two, he elaborated: "Everything has a price . . . except my wife's virtue and the publishing rights of The Falkirk Herald."



Armitt: the new chief executive at Costain

Switching sites

JOHN ARMITT was yesterday named Costain's new chief executive. After 26 years at John Laing Construction, he will succeed Alan Lovell, who announced his intention last December to leave Costain. John Neerhout will take over from Armitt as interim managing director of Union Railways.

PRICE Waterhouse helped to raise the roof yesterday at the Globe Theatre. The accountancy firm is sponsoring two columns, each hewn from a single oak timber. 28ft in height and weighing 1.5 tonnes, to support the roof above

Party food

SAFEWAY is encouraging its customers to vote with their mouths. In the deli section are packed-lunch varieties of "The Election Roll". There's "Red Leicester" for Blairites, "Sage Derby" for Green Party supporters, "Blue Cheese" for Tory voters, and less exotic "Double Gloucester" for Ashdown fans. And for the sophisticated palates of the Monster Raving Loony Party? Cheddar Cheese with Fruit Cake."

BRIAN WINTERFLOOD is troubled by the City's lack of charity. The managing director of Winterflood Securities sent out 300 sponsor forms to brokers across the Square Mile to support the firm's team running in the London Marathon and to raise money for Remedi, the medical trust charity. So far, he has received only 17 replies.

MORAG PRESTON

A hand-up for the have-nots or a handout from the haves

poverty as originally intended, we have relieved it at a cost now approaching 550 billion a year. That is a policy all parties now seem to agree is unsustainable.

Attacking poverty should therefore be the top priority. This is the essential prerequisite for spending proportionately more on any other worthy causes and desirable objectives, or for any lasting cut in the tax burden. Most poor people are found among about half a dozen vast and richly varied groups: the retired, the unemployed, the sick, divorced or unmarried single parents. families with one low-waged earner and the distressed self-employed. They do not all need the same help. Nor are they all susceptible to aid, whether carrot or stick. Programmes to lift as many as possible out of poverty would need to range right across Whitehall, would be hard to target and often

slow to make much impact. Both Labour and Tories have intriguing if not fully formed long-term proposals to ensure that far more people have comfortable pensions of their own when they retire. Neither seems to have much to offer over the

There is more hope on unemployment.



The past few years have shown that the key is steady growth, and low inflation to keep growth steady. Allowing enterprises to build slowly and steadily is the key to a healthy labour market. Boom leading to labour shortages and bidding-up of wages is the inevitable prelude to recession. The more steady and unexciting the economy, the lower the rate of unemployment that can be sustained without rising inflation.

SEARJEANT

The present rate, though so much better than on the Continent, is still too high for the public finances to sustain indefinitely.

use the unknown Ex billion of utility taxes to shove 250,000 young people and long-term unemployed into the labour market through training, job subsidies or even voluntary work. Extra skills might be the best longterm benefit. Tories prefer cheap sticks.

Little is heard of a seemingly obvious reason for the demand for jobs to be greater than the supply. They are taxed. No wonder the market is distorted. To make matters worse, Employers' National Insurance Contributions (ENICs) are structured to give employers an incentive to convert secure, full-time jobs into low-paid part-time ones. Many have done. If Labour is to make any impact with a minimum wage, it should reform ENICs at the same time. Otherwise, it will not be able to set the minimum at a level that will make much impact on poverty for fear of costing jobs, in textiles and other vulnerable industries if not in catering.

Low wage rates would not look so inadequate, nor would wage subsidies be growing so fast, if poor people did not have their earned incomes taxed. A totally rational tax and social security system would ensure that no one was taxed on

earnings who needed means-tested benefits. Yet many pay tax and National Insurance at a combined 30 per cent, putting the deductions from any rise in earnings at more than 90 per cent. Tax starts too low and the tax system does not allow for need while the benefit system does.

Groups as normally sensible as the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Low Pay Unit still argue that needs should be covered by spending on benefits, rather than not taxing those in need (such as families) so much. This thinking has to change if poverty in the fiscal sense is to be prevented and the vicious circle converted into a virtuous one. A means-rested benefit is wholly inferior to a transfer. Any welfare spending is inferior to achieving the same result by tax cuts or allowances, even if the budgetary cost of tax aid is higher.

A two-parent family with one earner and two children should really not be taxed on less than about Ell,000. John Major's proposal for fully transferable personal allowamces would nearly achieve this. provided the married person's allowance is retained. But for the political incorrectness of the implied incentive for wives not to work, the reform would surely have been made several years ago. Without necessarily boosting their living standards, it could remove up to 700,000 families from the poverty trap, from indignity and from welfare benefits. Naturally, it will do nothing for other groups. The battle against poverty is only beginning. The more

Paul Durman says share price growth has outweighed the risk — so far

Biotech's potent investment formula

onventional wisdom has it that over the next ten years biotechnology companies will create huge amounts of wealth from the drugs and medical devices they are developing. Conventional wisdom also states that these companies are the last place where private investors should look to invest their money.

The dangers are all too ohvious. The share prices are volatile, falling and rising like yoyos. Most of the companies have modest sales, and are still running up substantial losses on the back of research and development spending. Stock market valuations running into hundreds of million of pounds are supported, it often seems, by little more than promises of future success. With the companies defying conventional analysis, it is easy for cynics to suggest that the whole sector is riding on a bubble of hype and

Be this as it may, many biotech investors have done extremely well. If the definition is stretched to include companies such as Shire Pharmaceuticals and . SkyePharma, 36 healthcare technology comsanles have floated in London, most of them in the past four years. As Erling Refsum, the Yamaichi analyst has observed, they are now sufficiently numerous to be able to take a

portfolio approach. According to calculations by The Times, an investor who had indiscriminately invested a £1,000 in each company as it came to the market would have made a profit of just over £50,000 on an initial outlay of £36,000. That is an impressive return from companies that have only been listed for an av-

erage of two-and-a-half years. To put this in perspective, in the past two-and-a-half years, the FT-SE 100 index of Britain's leading companies has risen by about 34 per cent. A reliable performer like Marks & Spencer has increased in value by less than 13 per cent. Even the strong recovery at British Petroleum has produced a gain of only just over 70 per cent.

Of the 36 companies, 22 have enjoyed an increase in their share price, while 14 have just money for their investors. The only complete failure was Anagen, which had developed a blood analysis system.

The tables show the top six and the bottom six performers.



Dr lan Wilmut, of the Roslin Institute, which worked with PPL Therapeutics to clone Dolly the sheep, highlighting advances being made in the sector

not produce their first drugs

before 2002 was a fairly

pointless exercise". On top of

everything else, this approach

ignores the value in the com-

panies' underlying technology.

ret alternatives such as multi-

ples of R&D spending seem even more flawed. "People are

constantly struggling to get to

grips with the valuations of

these companies." the analyst

ments about trials, new discov-

eries, and new research partnerships — is one of the

main drivers of share prices.

Companies that have no news

for a few months often see their

and great subjectivity."

The comparison makes the point that while the downside risk is limited by the size of the initial investment - £1,000 in our example - the potential returns can be several times

In general terms, the top performers are, unsurprisingly, the longest established companies. ML Laboratories originally joined the now defunct Third Market only a month after the 1987 stock market crash, giving it the longest track record. Its leodial kidney dialysis solution is already being sold through Baxter Healthcare and the company made a substantial profit for the first time last year. Yet its shares (now 190p) have fallen to less than half last

year's peak of 448p. Smart Sim. deputy chief executive of ML Labs. said: "We've done something that the market does not know how to cope with. We've gone cash flow positive, we've recovered

all our R&D expenditure and we've posted a profit."

British Biotech is the sector giant. Its market value is £1.6 billion. Yet its pancreatitis drug will not be launched before the end of this year, and its great hope, the marimastat cancer drug, is still in clinical trials.

Many new healthcare companies are still too far from market even to be considered by some US investors with more experience in biotech. Mike Yellen, who runs about \$850 million in healthcare money for GT Global. recently told Global Fund Analysis that early stage investments in biotech are simply bad investments.

He said: "It's very, very difficult to make any intelligent

guesses about how later stage trials are going to work out, based on very early, small clinical trials. What happens again and again lis that the stury sounds great, the pre-clinical animal data looks great, the five-patient phase I

safety dosing trial looks great. Then they step up to a larger trial and issues come up - sideeffect issues, or there is just no efficacy, or whatever.

How do UK investors justify these extraordinary valuations? And will the biotech companies continue to produce such high returns?

industry analysts assess the scale of the target market for which the biotech companies are developing products, estimate the market share the new products will take, and then adjust for the risk of failure in development. This discounted cash flow modelling can produce misleadingly precise fig-ures. In the words of Cellrech's Peter Fellner, in reality it is no more than a "pseudo science" The valuation estimates will depend enormously on the key

assumptions that underpin it. An analyst at one leading securities house vesterday said producing discounted cash flows for companies that may

healthcare companies, since the deals may weaken their negotiating position over royalty rights to their products, "Most people do not know the value of these deals," he said. "What price has been paid for that subscription in equity by a major?" He said the majors may seek to control future development spending, and may extract options over products. He added: "Unless you see the full deal, you didn't ought to get too excited."

Essentially, there are no simple answers in valuing biotech companies. Investors have to fall back on their judgment of management and their faith in the biotech companies' technology.

For what it's worth, those involved in the biotech industry seem evenly split on whether the quoted companies are over or undervalued. An informal poll at the recent BioIndustry Association conference sponsored by Ernst & Young divided evenly over the issue.

Hamish Hale, of Apax Partners, which has invested in ten biotech companies and never made a loss, said: "Some are priced and some are just about right." He said there is no fundamental overvaluation, PPL Therapeutics, the gene therapy company made famous b cioning Doily the sheep, was 'really undervalued".

Dr Refsum says that with share prices so dependent on confidence, the new healthcare stocks would be badly hit by a serious fall in the wider stock market. So even though the underlying value of a biotech company is almost completely divorced from the economic cycle, its shares could be hurt by a rise in interest rates.

Dr Refsum, one of the bigoptimistic. "When confidence is at its lowest in these companies, that's the time to buy them." The strong recoveries that British Biotech, Celltech and Cantab have all made after apparently serious setbacks

...AND LOSERS WINNERS.. tation Price Price at 31.3.97 £13,000.00 ML Laboratories 170p 112p 44p 42.5p 80p £460.23 £466.68 1212.5p 715p 268.5p £6,132.35 £5,383.93 Proteus Int. Oxford Biomedica May 1990 April 1996 Sept 1993 June 1994 Biocompatibles Int. £5,102.27 £4,870.59 **BUSINESS LETTER** Insurance business is in the blood for those who play the genetic card

many pertinent objections to smartcard being issued, short-

Letters intended for publication in the Business section

of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112

From Mr Raymond Angel

Sir, Dr C. Gardner-Thorpe's letter dealing with the genetictests confidentiality dilemma. in respect of insurance (February 13), indicates the substantial difficulties being created by the increasing use of new technology v privacy for individuals.

Last year, the Home Office conducted a consultation into the ment of establishing a National Identity Card for UK citizens. The proposal was to create a personal database. and from this information to issue to every individual an identity smartcard. The Registrar of Data Protection raised

the Home Secretary's proposal and seemingly, for the time being, the matter is on hold. Dr Gardner-Thorpe's letter

highlights the increasing use of personal data, medical history, genetic tests, etc. in the insurance business. Given the staggering advances in genetic/DNA testing techniques and the compilation of databases being made commercially available, it appears that we may not be too far away from a personal identity

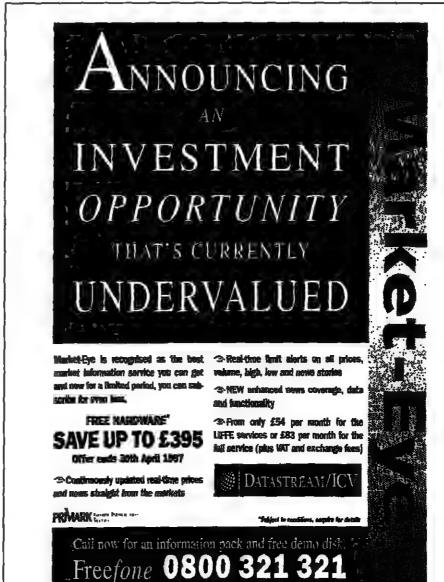
ly after the birth of an individual.

When, as required by law, a birth is registered and a National Insurance Number is given in the name of the person registered, it follows that an ID smartcard could be issued for that person's future use. For example, to claim medical care and treatment. It could also be used, later in life, to detail educational achievements, employment records, unemployment claims, state

pension benefit, right through to the issue of a death certificate.

Superimpose genetic details onto that person's 1D smartcard, given that blood tests are conducted within days of birth, and all that would be required is the person's consent for any prospective insurer to access the database. Within minutes, an insurance proposal could be accepted, rejected or loaded all with the magic of tomorrow's technology.

Yours faithfully. RAYMOND ANGEL, 34 Lennox Close.



shares slide. Investors draw

confidence from the invest-

ments made by the leading

pharmaceutical groups when

they form strategic alliances

with the drug development

companies. Recently, Glaxo

Wellcome has taken a stake in Cantab Pharmaceuticals.

Smithkline Beecham and

Medeva have bought into Pep-

tide Therapeutics and Zeneca

has invested in Xenova, all at

price. It is obviously reassuring

to have such an endorsement

from experts who are ideally placed to assess the real value

of the biotech development

Mr Sim. of ML Labs, sug-

Hewden is confident in spite of tough year

By CLARE STEWART

HEWDEN STUART, the plant and tool hire group. suffered a fall in pre-tax profits, from £36.25 million to £29.45 million, in the year to January 31 but struck a more confident note for the current year.

Sandy Findlay, chair-man and chief executive, said recovery in the construction industry will mean better trading conditions this year.

Mr Findlay added that more engineering and building companies are now moving away from ownership of mobile plant equipment and are look-ing instead to build trading relationships with hire groups such as Hewden

The fall in profits was in line with the company's revised expectations. Last year the group's turnover fell to £276.5 million from £279.3 million.

Difficult market condtions knocked profits and margins in the hire business. The acquisition of Agent Plant from Kvaerner Group did not bring profits in its three mouths of ownership.

However, after its reorganisation it is expected to make a contribution in the current year.

Utilisation rates had improved from a low of 60 per cent, the group said, with hire rates also seen to

be firming up.
Hewden Stuart has expanded its chain of hire depots, and further expansion is planned to increase the coverage, particularly in the south.

A 10 per cent drop in turnover in the group's merchandising division knocked profits back from £2.7 million to £1 million. Gearing at the end of the year stood at 6.5 per cent after improvements in

Hewden Stuart is pay-ing a final dividend of 2.4p giving a total for the year of 3.2p, up from 3p previously. The shares rose 13p



Marco Chiappelli, left, finance director, Fred Johnston, centre, and Tim Bowdler reported profits at Johnston ahead of City expectations New titles

Flat demand and tight margins squeeze Camas

CAMAS. Britain's fifth-largest aggregates group, blamed flat demand for building materials and tight margins for a fall in sales and profits last year.

The company reported a decline in pre-tax profits to £22.8 million from £24.1 million for the year to December 3). Alan Shearer, chief executive, said trading was affected by a continuance of the weak market conditions experi-

enced for several years in the UK, partly offset by a strong market in America.

Operating profits fell 5 per cent to £27 million on turnover that was unchanged at £407.7

million. Trading results in-clude a profit of £900,000 in respect of the highway construction, maintenance and surfacing activities of CAMAS Associated Asphalt, which was sold in January 1997, and

£500,000 from acquisitions completed in the third and fourth quarters.

Mr Shearer said: "Our busi-ness in the US, benefiting from strong markets, has per-formed well and offset the lower results earned from our European operations, where the weak UK market adversely affected volumes.

"In continuing good mar-kets in the US and the pick-up

in UK housing, 1997 has

share, the company is paying an unchanged total dividend of 3.75p, mainmining the final payment at 2.5p.
Profits from European operations fell to £20.1 million

(£23.3 million) after charging rationalisation costs of £2.5 million, compared with a £1.5 million charge in the previous year. Turnover fell 6 per cent to £283.8 million and trading margins eased to 7.1 per cent from 7.7 per cent.

Mr Shearer said the level of expenditure on UK roads was unlikely to provide an increase in demand in the coming year, but the improvement in the housing market in the final quarter of 1996 has continued into 1997. Markets in America enjoyed a period of sustained growth and all indications are that the strong market will continue throughout 1997.

rarely invested in risk-free as-sets. It will more typically have a large proportion of equities.

An actuary, in calculating the funding rate needed to meet the

ultimate liability, will take that

into account, unlike E54. A pension fund may thus be fully funded according to the scheme's actuary, but the com-

pany's accounts will show an

The accounting proposed in E54 for defined benefit schemes

can be said to distort balance

sheets and distort them in an

unpredictable way. For those

companies already contemplating switching to defined contri-

bution schemes, this may be

There are two further points

that should not be overlooked. First, the SEC will not be

satisfied with just a core set of standards in place. It requires a

mechanism to be in place for

interpreting those standards.

Already there are indications

that the standards do not mean

the same thing to all companies

in all countries. The Standard

Interpretations Committee of the IASC, which meets for the

first time this week, is the

proposed solution to that issue.

It is a kind of Urgent Issues

Task Force and consists of a

number of well-qualified indi-

viduals, but it is a significant

job. They have a lot to do.
Finally, the SEC is looking

for a vigorous international

enforcement mechanism. No

solution has been put forward.

In practice, for companies com-

ing to New York for capital, the SEC will do much of the

enforcement. Companies that

fail to comply will not attain

access. Presumably (but less obviously so) similar enforce-ment measures will be applied

by other stock exchanges or

securities commissions. The

result will be an unco-

ordinated enforcement system.

There is room for something

like our own Financial Review

Panel. The principal sanction

will be the ability to make

public any deficiencies discov-

ered. The threat of litigation in

the home country would be a

useful add-on, but perhaps too

ambitious for the present.

However, more debate will be

needed — and soon.

the clinching factor.

ncreasing pension liability.

al newspaper publisher, said the outlook was encouraging as it reported full-year profits exceeding City expectations.

started well." Shares of CAMAS rose 812p to 812p yesterday, against a 1996 high of 97p. Despite a fall in earnings to 5.11p (5.47p) a

> rose from £102 million to £165 Fred Johnston, chairman said trading conditions had improved, with advertising growth reflecting the stronger national economy. Tim Bowdler, managing director, said the cost of newsprint in the current year was expected to be nearer 1995 levels.

> > per cent average.
> >
> > The final dividend of 1.7p (1.5p) makes a total of 2.45p, up 14 per cent, adjusted for the rights issue last July. Earnings, excluding exceptionals, rose to 9.76p (8.42p). The shares rose 5p to 191 p.

Margins had improved, but

were still below Johnston's 25

help to lift

Johnston

By FRANK LE DUC

JOHNSTON PRESS, the loc-

The rise in pre-tax profit to £24.1 million (£16.8 million) in

the year to December 31 reflect-

ed acquisitions by the Edin-

burgh group, including the £213 million deal last July to

Underlying operating profit advanced to £18 million, from

£17.2 million, while turnover

buy Emap's regional titles.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

EU approves £247m aid for Welsh firms

THE European Commission has approved UK state aid of £247 million to help to co-finance investment projects by LG Electronics Wales (LGEW) and LG Semicon Wales (LGSW), which are owned by LG Engineering, the South Korean industrial conglomerate.

LGEW is to invest 5521 million in the creation of a television and computer monitor production plant, and later in the assembly of colour display tubes and colour picture tubes for monitors. LGSW, which operates in the semi-conductor industry, plans to invest £1.1 billion in a plant. The Commission said the investments would not create overcapacity in the respective markets. It also noted that they would help to create 6,100 jobs in South Wales.

National Power project

NATIONAL POWER, the UK utility, has won its first big project in Indonesia as part of an international consortium that plans to build a \$1.6 billion coal-fired power station. The consortium signed a 30-year agreement under which Indonesia's stateowned electricity corporation will buy power from the 1.320MW plant. It is planned to be built on the northern coast of central Java. National Power's partners are Tomen of Japan and Bakrie Power and Maharani Paramitra of Indonesia.

Record start for Liffe

THE London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) traded a record 51,333,462 futures and options contracts during the first quarter of this year, representing a 10 per cent increase over the first quarter of 1996. It was the first time quarterly turnover exceeded 50 million contracts. In March, Liffe traded 16.58 million contracts, with average daily volume of 872,429 contracts, representing an average daily nominal turnover of £187.04 billion.

Yorkshire Water charge

YORKSHIRE WATER will take a £2.7 million exceptional charge against the disposal of Fospur, its specialist water treatment business, to Ashland UK, a subsidiary of Ashland of America, for £5.3 million. The charge is mainly because of the cost of goodwill on the original purchase in 1991. The disposal follows a strategic review of non-regulated activities in 1996 and the prioritising of solid and liquid waste, clinical waste and environmental analysis at Yorkshire Environmental.

Benchmark acquisition

BENCHMARK, the property investment and development group, has exchanged contracts to acquire the leasehold of two London properties for £30 million. Benchmark is acquiring an office block and 42 apartments, near Vauxhall Bridge, from the Universities Superannuation Scheme. Both properties have about 82 years of unexpired leasehold. Benchmark said the consideration implies an initial yield of 9 per cent.

Verity licensing deal

SHARES in Verity, the electronic equipment group, rose 54 pto 534 p after the company announced that its New Transducers unit has signed a cross-licensing agreement with Noise Cancellation Technologies Inc (NCTI) for flat loudspeaker technology. NCTI will sub-license the joint intellectual property in the automotive and transportation sectors and will pay a proportion of its royalty income to New Transducers.

year to March 29, but "delays will be "marginally below" the lower end of expectations. in receiving the order have resignificant repeat orders. It

BY OUR CITY STAFF

Syrup tomorrow at Borthwicks

SHARES in Borthwicks, the food producer, rose 2½p, to 312p, in spite of a warning that full-year pre-tax profits

Borthwicks also said that it had received "a significant order" from "a major new customer" in America to sup-

chocolate coffee iced drink. The company said that it had

originally expected to despatch part of this order in the sulted in there being no contribution in that year, and as a result the directors currently expect to report profits before taxation marginally below the lower end of market ex-

Dependent on public reactlon after the product rollout, the company had hopes for added: "As a result of this order and improving conditions in the flavours markets, the board is confident about prospects for the year ending March 1998."

ACCOUNTANCY

Kulebook for an ideal world

Paul Rutteman looks at some of

the issues raised by the quest for

an international set of standards

n an ideal world, companies quoted on one stock exchange could seek other listings without having to produce different sets of accounts. But it is not an ideal world and UK companies listed in New York have to file a reconciliation statement with the Securities Exchange Commission showing what their profits and shareholders' equity would be if US accounting principles had been used instead of UK ac-

counting standards. It is not so bad for UK companies because, for most, the capital available through the London Stock Exchange is sufficient for their needs. For capital hungry German and French companies, it is a different matter. Their stock exchanges are less liquid and they must seek their capital elsewhere - usually New York - and that involves preparing the second set of accounts

required by the SEC. All of that is set to change in 1998 when the International Accounting Standards Com-mittee (IASC) is due to complete its "core" standards required by the International Organisation of Securities Commissions as a prerequisite for a single filing requirement. The SEC has taken a leading role in encouraging the IASC to accelerate its programme to produce these core standards, and expectations are high that once these are complete com-

panies can use just one set of accounts for their filings any-where in the world, including the US. Of course, that implies that the international standards must be acceptable for local use too, and that could cause problems for UK companies if those core standards differ significantly from UK standards.

However, there are significant problems for the IASC too. Its proposals are significant and controversial. The deadline is close and difficult to achieve without cutting muchneeded discussion. The IASC needs to manage its timetable carefully and UK companies. among others, need to watch those proposed standards that can have significant effects on the way they do business.

Does it matter if the timetable slips? A six-month slippage may not matter, but much more and companies may lose patience and adopt US accounting principles.

In developing the core standards, IASC has had to dispense with optional treatments included in earlier standards and this has usually meant that the new standards are more like US standards than UK standards. This happened with deferred tax and is likely to happen with the proposed standard on employee benefit costs essentially pension costs.

The more serious concern in this proposal relates to defined



Paul Rutteman highlights the need for more debate

benefit (or final salary) schemes which most UK companies have. They are likely to have to report liabilities which are artificial and volatile to a degree that may cause them to switch to defined contribution (money payment) schemes instead. Such a change may well prove unpopular with employees who like to know whether they will have a sufficient pension when they retire rather than that their pension is dependent on the success, or otherwise, of investments in which the contributions have been put.

problem is that E54 (the relevant exposure draft) will result in volatile balance sheet liabil-Why will this happen? The past year). A pension fund is

ities because it takes a shortterm view of asset returns and interest rates. Each year the pension scheme assets have to be valued at market value and the liability for future pensions discounted at a risk-free rate of return. Asset values can rise and fall rapidly in speculative markets and the long-term risk-free rate of return can move significantly from year to year also (just look at Italian government bonds over the

accepted as a reasonable excuse." Nothing is certain ex-

TAXAID is the charity that aims to provide free tax advice to people who cannot afford professional help. One of the ways it funds this is by running conferences that aim to help tax advisers. The next one is on April 25 and should provide a guide to all anyone needs to know about the onset of self-assessment. Details on 0171 624 5216.

5216. Paul Rutteman is partner with the Financial Services Office of Ernst & Young.

Revenue shifts burden of work to the taxpayer

IN THE first few days of next week the full effect of the changeover to tax self-assessment will become apparent. The opening days of the tax year will see some 8.5 million tax returns arriving on the nation's doormats. For everyone concerned it will be a new concept. It will be a new and redesigned tax form. And for a large proportion of recipients it will be the first time that they have had to sort anything like this out.

The concept of self-assessment is easy to understand and the new forms are relatively clear. But tax, whatever forms and methods are used for collection, is bound to be complex. For those who have well-ordered tax affairs and employ an adviser there should be few problems. But the selfassessment net has widened the numbers of those who have to take responsibility for their tax affairs. In the old days, an uncomplicated taxpayer on the PAYE system hardly noticed anything, except the tax being

removed. Now anyone with taxable benefits has to sort it out with the Inland Revenue.

Suddenly, people are going to be faced with complicated decisions and the need for advice. Overnight a huge market will open up for cheap, cheerful, but effective tax advice. There are three obvious sources for this. The banks could knock out a form-based service. Small accountancy firms could do likewise. There are no regulations about who can and who cannot call themselves tax advisers.

In the US, where selfassessment is the norm, a huge industry of good, swift

and cheap tax advice is available. But it has grown up over years. Here, in year one, there is likely to be chaos. Already the banks, having made noises about being interested in the market, are starting to pull out. The idea of a centralised system has foundered as people sought to gain tax advice across a desk in a local branch. The cost structure of a tax service provided by the banks depended on swift and easy central processing of tax returns. They were not going to make money if the service had to include specific help at a

The market will be left to organisations such as the British Taxpayers Association, which has formed an alliance of accountancy firms. It provides the documentation and the advertising. The local accountancy firms do the tax work. Through that arrangement it boasts 250 partners and 1,250 professional staff available to carry out the basic tax service for which it intends to charge about 160. That is almost three times when the tax £60. That is almost three times what the "nofrills" service would cost in the US. But that

probably owes much to differences in consumer culture and a mature market. People in the US tend to insist on quality at a dirt-cheap price. In the UK, consumers tend to associate a high price with high quality and consequently are happy to pay much higher prices than in the US. But as the message of self-assessment sinks

in, we will see the arrival of independent high street tax shops and, in a totally unregulated marketplace, we will start to hear tales of incompetence and disasters. The tax advisory industry has tried to do something about this. A report was commissioned by the Chartered Institute of Taxation and TaxAid, the tax advice charity. That suggested that rogue advice and its consequences did exist and the suggestion was made that some sort of regulation was required. But the practicalities are harder. Another report was commissioned to examine the lessons that could be learnt from the relevant 100 worst

cases that had come before the accountancy profession's regulatory systems. This is due to be published next month. It is likely to conclude that most accountancy firms are disciplined because they are manageri-ally rather than technically incompetent. People who re-ceive bad advice often receive it because the adviser's own business is a shambles. It is hard to separate an inability to run a business from an inability to advise properly on tax. As a result, it is hard to insist on regulation of advisers if it is not likely to improve the quality of advice.

ROBERT BRUCE

But the most alarming change that is likely to hit taxpayers is the switch to random audits. From next Monday morning the Inland Revenue has the power to descend on taxpayers and investigate their tax affairs. "Taxpayers", as Ernst & Young put it in its survey of Revenue audit powers last autumn, "whose affairs are in order will not be told that they are being investigated for purely statistical reasons." And if such an investigation is detailed, as it is likely to be, the taxpayer will find that the sheer cost of arguing his or her case is on the large side. The fee to an adviser for helping out during

the investigation is not going to be £60.

And that is likely to be the real impact of self-assessment. In the past, the relatively small number of people who had complex tax affairs, or were self-employed, paid for advice because they felt it was necessary. Now a large number of people are going to have to pay for advice simply because the Inland Revenue has shifted its burden of work from tax gatherer to taxpayer. ...

Tax advice that began at sea

TAX self-assessment has meant a scramble among tax advisers to provide help to beleaguered taxpayers as they become inundated with tax forms when the new tax system and tax year start next week. The British Taxpayers Association has been repackaged for the occasion. Now it aims to provide help through a network of accountancy firms throughout the land. But its origins lie aboard Admiral

Jellicoe's flagship during the First World War. A quartermaster started doing the tax computations for the fleet in the Black Sea and continued with the business once back on dry land. Even now it claims to have a few retired rearadmirals on its books.

Excused by death THERE has been much argu-

Inland Revenue is putting forward to taxpayers about the fearsome new regime of penalties for anyone getting the new self-assessment system wrong. In particular, the range of taxpayers' excuses that would be deemed to be acceptable. In what was thought to be the ninth draft of the advice on what would happen if taxpayers missed deadlines it still THERE has been much argument over the advice that the

cept death and taxes.

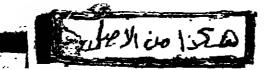
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■ FILM 1

Colin Firth, freed from Mr Darcy's breeches, turns in an appealing performance in the new Fever Pitch



FILM 2

The French film, A Self-Made Hero, dares to poke fun at the German Occupation and the French Resistance



FILM 3

Wildly exaggerated violence, and a fascination with disfigurement, mar the Japanese film Tokyo Fist



DANCE

Darcey Bussell and Igor Zelensky form the perfect partnership in the Royal Ballet revival of La Bayadère

CINEMA: It's one-nil to the Arsenal as the laddish charm of Fever Pitch wins over even football-hating Geoff Brown

You are watching men united

tanding in my back garden some Saturday afternoons, I can hear the crowd's roar at the Arsenal stadium in Highbury, half a mile away. Hell on earth, it sounds like. I hate all sport, and always have done. Why. then, did I have a good time at Fever Pitch, the film adaptation of Nick Hornby's book chronicling his obsession with Arsenal Football Club? What was so appealing about Colin Firth, freed from Mr Darcy's breeches, acting the chauvinistic bloke, swapping football lore with his mates, wearing Arsenal boxer shorts, and bellowing on the terraces?

ignorance helped. Not having read Nick Hornby's autobiographical book, I was not to know that Colin Firth's fine head of curls bore no resemblance to the author's bald pate; or, more crucially, that the film's romance between Firth and aRuth Gemmell, fellow teacher at a London comprehensive school, was invented to provide a peg for thoughts, jokes and dia-logue previously filtered through the match reports that filled the book's pages.

"If someone else had taken these liberties, I probably would have been appalled," Hornby writes in his introduction to the published screenplay. But he was the scriptwriter; and he knew well enough that the film's conventional structure, flecked with flashbacks to the hero's childhood in a broken home, still allowed room for the book's concerns and rampant good

The film's sheer friendliness is its most endearing feature. Director David Evans, a recruit from British television, may use the big screen timidly - this is a film of small details and surface realism - but he knows how to snuggle up to his characters, no matter how maddening their behaviour. In some respects Fever Pitch is not about football at all; it is about being a fanatic, and the way an obsession bends lives and relationships out of shape. Here is where Gemmell's Sarah Hughes comes in useful, as a foil and yardstick. Joining Firth's school just as Arsenal begin the 1988-89 season, she begins as a strict disciplinarian, exasperated by her colleague's lax ways. Falling in love and getting pregnant bring no revolutionary change: she re-mains incredulous at Firth's fixation, while he feels free to accuse her of having no soul. "Perhaps one day," he says, " you'll learn to care habout something you can't tick."

Acting more energetically than usual. Firth makes his Arsenal devotee appear both aggravating and attractive; while Gemmell persuasively shows us a teacher



Colin Firth -- or, at any rate, his Gunners boxer shorts -- and Ruth Gemmell in a scene from Nick Hornby's ebullient adaptation of his own bestseller, Fever Pitch

whose ordered experior hides unfulfilled needs. In truth, the pair never appear a likely match and, as the baby looms and Arsenal's fortunes reach their dimax, Fever Pitch drifts away from realism towards the tidy solutions of fantasy. But it's far too late to complain: we have bathed too pleasurably in the film's ebullience, generous heart and delight in the follies of life.

A Self-Made Hero gives much pleasure too, though of a more complicated kind. Here is a French film that dares to poke into the uncomfortable area of the German Occupation and the myth of the Resistance; and dares to treat events as a matter for ironic comedy. The hero, one Albert Dehousse, begins as a provincial nobody who arrives in Paris after the Liberation in 1944 and creates a new identity as a valiant Resistance

It suits the higher echelons to believe him. Dehousse's imposture is so convincing that he is appointed to responsible positions, scour-France for traitors and supervising mop-up operations in Germany. We want Dehousse to succeed too, for the actor Matthieu Kassovitz (the powerful director of La Haine) bends us round his little finger with his mixture of naivety

and guile. This is the second film to be directed by the screenwriter Jacques Audiard. The density of the film's ideas and the wealth of dialogue point to his background. But he is no mere slave to the words of the script (adapted from a novel by Jean-François Deniau). He knows images too: he plays with them, shapes them gracefully, and whisks us with a magician's flourish between different pieces of the jigsaw puzzle that comprise Dehousse's life. Parts of the film feel like mock documentary: there are contemporary interviews with colleagues and witnesses, photographed straight to camera. And, just in case we get lulled into accepting fictions as facts. Audiard bridges some scenes with shots of musicians recording the film's

But there is nothing coldly intel-lectual about this cat's cradle of lies, evasions and illusions. A Self-Made Hero barrels along, popular and highbrow both at once, always alert to the comic potential of

soundtrack.

Dehousse's charade. When he gatecrashes a Resistance reception in the early days, he walks in, charmingly, carrying his own wine glass. By the end, the lies have built up into a labyrinth. He becomes trapped, and since we spectators have willingly complied in the game, we watch him wriggling with as much pain as amusement. Kassovitz, scarcely off screen, revels in the part's subtleties; and the company around him, including Anouk Grinberg. Sandrine Kiber-lain and Jean-Louis Trintignant, pitch in with vim and vigour. This is a film of many layers, and rich

rewards. Not so Hard Men, a British entry in the Imitation Tarantino stakes, which wrongly assumes that splashes of spurious visual

style, lashings of words beginning with f and enormous injections of violence can compensate for a paitry script and a lack of directorial control. The chap at the helm is J. K. Amalou, French by birth, but with 15 years in London under his belt time enough for him to learn how to write coarse English like "Kiss me where I poo".

When not displaying their language skills, the three Mafia henchmen spend their time trawling London's sleaziest locations, blasting opponents dead, and argu-ing. The chief bone of contention is one of their number, Tone, who wishes to hang up his gun now that his former girlfriend has presented him with a daughter. Instead of mouthing foul threats, he starts to coo "Da da" into his mobile phone.

The situation is pregnant with comedy. You could even get tender feelings involved, But Amalou's script nips all developments in the bud, and the director seems too busy parading his ambitions to notice. Actors involved include Vincent Regan. Ross Boatman and Lee Ross: they deserve better. Good taste returns with Korea, a

leading attraction in Green on the Barbican Centre's Irish arts season. Too much good taste, almost: you long for a break in the

Fever Pitch

Odeon West End, 15, 100 mins Agreeable screen transplant of Nick Hornby's book

A Self-Made Hero Curzon Mayfair, 15, 105 mins

Captivating French tale of a bogus Resistance hero Hard Men

ABC Piccadilly, 18, 87 mins **Bad British Tarantino**

Green on the Screen Barbican Cinema Wide-ranging season of Irish cinema

Tokyo Fist ICA Cinema, 18, 87 mins Eye-pummelling Japanese madness

mournful tread of Cathal Black's film, with its tone of exquisite misery, its careful photography of village faces, freshwater lakes and faded wallpaper.

The time is 1952. One man's son. an emigrant to America, comes back dead from the war in Korea. Another man's son fights to avoid a similar fate. There is decent acting and atmosphere galore; but the film cannot shake off the shroud of undue seriousness.

Finally, Tokyo Fist an onslaught of pummelling hands, pulped and pierced flesh, and spurring blood from Shinya Tsukamoto, the Japanese cyberpunk king, revered parhammer. Fans should be pleased, if no one else. The plot describes a simple love triangle; but there is nothing simple about the lurching camerawork, the blue-rinse photography, the erotic overtones, the wildly exaggerated violence and fascination with body distigurement. The trio's weaker male member is played, plaintively, by Tsukamoto himself, while his brother portrays the tough rival. They must lead an interesting

Superb victory'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases ...

☐ FEVER PITCH Damian Samuels, 19: Rarely has the word "Arsenal" been more entertaining. Tim Thornton, 21: An exciting soccer romp that really hits the spot. A superb victory for

Colin Firth. Sarah Crook, 18: The country has a passion for football and will have a passion for Fever

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 18: Macho nonsense.

☐ HARD MEN Damian: A laughable London crime story that should find a home in video hell. Tim: In true Tarantino style,



cars and fast dialogue. Sarah: An enjoyable, wellacted yarn. Lee Ross is one to Leslie: Rather disappointing.

☐ A SELF-MADE HERO Damian: Martin Guerre meets Forrest Gump meets The English Patient in a well-Tim: Don't be put off by the

subtitles. This film was tres Sarah: Moving and rich. Leslie: Matthieu Kassovitz gives a most delicate, sensitive performance.

THE ULTIMATE HORROR IS THE

FROM 4TH APRIL SHOWING AT THE

Finding the

DARCEY BUSSELL added another name to her list of leading roles this week, but she wasn't quite able to claim it as her own. She also added another name to her list of leading men, and found herself the perfect partner in the process. The occasion was her debut as Nikiya in the Royal Ballet's current revival of La Bayadere: the new man was Igor Zelensky, the Kirov-bred

Zelensky is over here for six weeks - he dances Romeo to Bussell's Juliet later this month - to partner Covent Garden's tallest female star. Bussell has not enjoyed the

perfect man DANCE

La Bayadère Covent Garden best of luck where her imported partners are concerned. The elegant American. Robert Ballet stay when injury sidelined him some years ago; the star of New York City Ballet. Hungarian Zoltan Solymosi was sacked after an unhappy

five years.

How permanent the Zelensky-Bussell partnership will turn out to be is still an unknown, but on the evidence of this one performance theirs is a match made in heaven. FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TETSUO AND BODYHAMMER Their physical compatibility is remarkable, his strength more "MORE POWER, ANGER AND TRUTH THAN RAGING BULL ... DYNAMIC..." EMPIRE than equal to the enormous scope of her dancing; while their attitudes as performers are perfectly in tune, both liking to take risks with the

> and very pretty indeed, but that isn't quite enough. There is a lot of emotional ground for Nikiya to cover in the first act from piety to romantic rapture, from rage to betrayal and ultimately death - and Bussell's arsenal of dramatic weapons is not varied enough to encompass such a huge range. Nikiya's back-bending monologue of grief in the garden scene revealed that Bussell has not yet found the key to tugging at our heart

choreography.

Bussell's Nikiya is demure

But her dancing on Monday night was lovely. No one describes wider arcs of dance than Bussell does, and the sensuousness of her musical phrasing — and the way she



Darcey Bussell makes her debut as Nikiya in La Bayadère

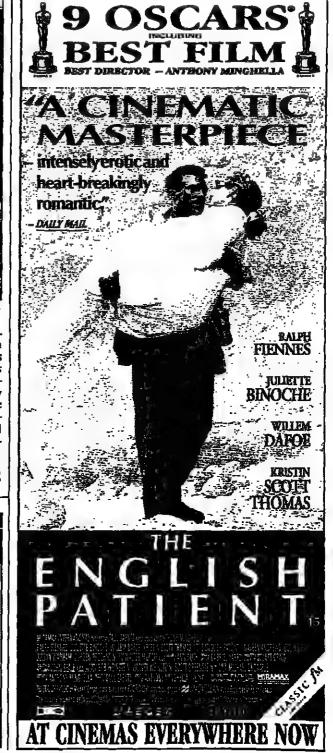
played with time, outlining familiar movements in unfamiliar ways - made the interpretation uniquely her own. And when paired with Zelensky's Solor, she came alive with the sheer physical excitement of letting go into the choreography. Zelensky is big and beefy.

and fiercely aristocratic in that very Russian way. His Solor was full of fire and bravado

and acted with a lusty confidence that worked well within the context of Bayadere's melodrama. His technique is absolutely stunning: immaculate, open and breathtakingly generous. He sailed across the Covent Garden stage in spacious leaps, and then amazed us even further with his impossibly cushioned landings.

DEBRA CRAINE







■ CHOICE 1

Sian Phillips stars as Marlene in Pam Gems's stage-bio of Dietrich

VENUE: Previewing from tonight at the Lyric Theatre

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertaknment

compiled by Gillian Maxey

lust some of the names taking part in the annual Chettenham. Intermetional Jazz Festival. New Sounds, a festival within the festival from 20m on Saturday), includes music from four bands at the outting edge of European Jazz the Recyclers with Steve Arguistes, Iam Ballenty's Arme, Perfect Houseplants with Mack Lockheet, and Human Chain teaturing Django Bates. Jazz Festival: Bolests (17242 227979), hottine (19594 541070). Today-Sunday, various times and vertues.

GLASGOW: Scottish Ballet begins bouring its highly exclaimed production of John Crarko's Romeo & Juliet. Proteiter's aloquent some, magnificent ossumes by Jurgen Rose, laviet, scenes combine to tell the story of the two

combine to tell the story of the two young lowers caught up in a murderous vendette not of their making. Theatre Royal, Hope Sheet (§ 10141-322 900) Today-April 12 (accept Sunday), 7 15pm, Ned in Edinburgh, Feetival (0131-529 6000), April 15-19; Abbreteen, His Majenty's (01234 841122), April 22-28.

THEATRE GUIDE

ny Kingston's asser

ouse hill, returns only one man avallable

THE COMPALIFRON AMERICA

Little Casterhal From Anterend.
James Laurenson and Corin Redgrave
play Amold and Washington, heeding a
fire cast in Richard Nelson's play
concerned with treachery but only
jainty suggesting motives.
Ptt. Barbican Contre, EC2 (0171-888
8891). Tonight-Sal, 7.15pm; mets Thurn
and Sat, 2pm in rep. Until April 6

NIKINGS: Homer, the first two books

as Alan Howard thritingly tells them, in Christopher Logue's translation A rare chance to hear the quartel between

crisince to neut the quarted between Achilles and Agementhon presented as the post intended, in live performence, Tyleyde, 269 Kiburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Opens tonight, Tpm. Then Mon-Sat, Spm; met Sat, 4pm. Unit April 19.

C) THE SCHOOL POR WIVE? Peter Bowles both touching and cornic as Moliera's deluded haro. Eric Sylvas ascellorii as his Blokar-lingured servent

Peter Hall directs. Piccoadilly, Denmen Street, W1 (0171-

Seats at all prices



■ CHOICE 2

Michael Collins is showing as part of the Green on the Screen film season

VENUE: From tonight at the Barbican Cinema

MANCHESTER Paul Godfrey's The Coordinate based on an unfinished corredy by Flaubert election time in

STOCKTON: David Hastlern contricts the Northern Strategia in concerns by Vweld, knowney and Variosi, Stockton Parish (DS00 S91986) Tonight, 7.45pm.

Anthony d'Offsy: Kile Smith: Once I Sava Berd (1771-489 4109) ... Chris Busilier Geratiine Garen (1771-485 7551) ... Commerchet Clement Page (1771-247 9747) ... Deffare: Ein Barbondge (1771-357 6600) ... Featheat Hall: Europen 4 UK (1717-960 4242) ... Gellery K: Christine Welson ... Women of Rome (1771-794 4949) Hayward: Metrici Cutiue: The Object of British Ari of Sw 1580s and 1990s (1771-928 3144) ... Llewellyn America A Maion Brussianis ... (1771-820 1322) ... Network Metang Iti (1771-328 2252) ... Network Academy: Jacqueline and Sophia Ricyl (1771-323 4700) ... Sastehi, Frons Res; Gary Hume (1771-824 8299)

spirit, and set, apm

If shrokey JOE's CAFE submed

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celebrating a successful songwitting
team, responsible for Hound Dog.
"kalhouse Rock and Spanish Harlem.

Primee of Winless, Covenity Street, Wil
(1)171-439 5887] Mon-Sat, Spirit mate
Thurs and Set, 3pm.

Corners Season continues with David

Corners Season commuses with David Elicitides's shape comedy set in Borlding, E13, at the end of the football season. Directed by Jonathan Lloyd, Doomar Warehouse, Earthern Street, WC2 (0171-389 1732). Mort-Sait, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until April 5.

S Buddy Strand (0171-930 8800)

S Cata: New Landon (0171-405 0072)

S Create: Carribridge (0171-405 0072)

S Grante: Carribridge (0171-494 5083).

J Jesens Carribridge (0171-494 5083).

J Jesens Christ Superstar: Lyceum (0171-695 1807).

S Otivert: Palactium (0171-695 1807).

S Otivert: Palactium (0171-695 1807).

Starlight Express: Apolio Victoria (0171-416 5054).

Starlight Express: Apolio Victoria (0171-416 5054).

Starlight (0171-344 0086)

LONG RUNNERS

LONDON GALLERIES





■ CHOICE 3

The Cheltenham International Jazz Festival welcomes Courtney Pine

VENUE: From tonight at venues in Cheltenham



■ NEW VIDEOS

Mira Nair's sensitive saga of Cuban immigrants in Miami, The -7 Perez Family, is out now

merfec merfec

LONDON

GREEN ON THE SCREEN: A two-week high firm season begins at the Barbican Cinema today, as part of the From the Heart Institut of thish music and erts, Green on the Screen leakness three strands — Irish Film Classics, Insh Music and Film and New Irish Cinoma — and includes titles such as Michael Collers, Man of Aran and the 1925 elent classes, high Deserry Burthless Classes, SA Street, EC2

(0171-638 5403) Until April 17. MARILENE: Suin Privipe playe (sed sings) District in Part Gerns's attractive sings) District in Francisches saldschei stage-hu, with Lou Gartes and Billy Mathian. Sean Mathias Girect. Lyrte, Shahashary Avenue, Wi (0171-494 5045) Previews begin fonight, 7 45pm. Opens April 8, 7pm. Then Man-Sal. 7,45pm. mate Wed, Sat. 3pm.

NOISE. The subject of Alex Jones's new play will be familiar to anyone whose music-mad neighbour has blasted their lives. Teanage newly-wods music rate a flat need to a lectinal manage. Warth Brichman directs the manar, Mark dinchren onder the second play in the Site Specific season. Bioho Thrudte al 21 Dilen Striett, W1 (0171-420 0022) Praviews begin tonight, 3pm. Opens April 7,7 Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until April 25

ELSEWHERE CHELTENHAM: Monty Alexander, Courtney Pine and Chico Freeman ere

□ BIRDY: Northern Exposure actor
Rob Morrow joins Kevin Knight's cast in
Naomi Walace's faschating version of
the William William novel; a
psychologically damaged GI (Matthew
Walf) believes he is a bird Or does her
Comedy, Parison Street, SWI (017)
369 1731) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs,
Syn. Set, Son.

CIGARETTES AND CHOCOLATE An altar, a pregnency, Bach and a bag lady leature in this stage version of the award-winning radio play by Anthony Minghella. Man in the Moon, 392 King's Road,

SW3 (0171-351 2676). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tuo-Sun, 8pm. Until April 97. THE CHIPPLE OF MISHIAAAN Six on a nemotivision late, with exceller playing (Rusidhin Conroy as the young cripple), Martin McDonagh's second play has its faulto but is lively and Netional (Cottonion), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tongth-Sat, Mon-Wed 7 30pm, meta Bat and Wed, 2,30pm. In rep. ()

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHERETTES: Fortosard Fantasy's USAMENTET FEB POWDERS / Partisary sometic fit returns; crazy doings in a crumbling fleeph inhabited by three grussome over a end than sebb brother. Enjoyably barring stuff.

Lynic Theorem Studio, King Street, Harrimership, WB (0161-741 2311), Man-Set, Spim, met Set, 4 30pm. Urall April 6.

RASCULAT (15): Feedbacking portrol of the black grafts satisf of the 1980s, portroyed by Jeffrey Whight. Gute (§ (1): 77: 727-4043; Lumiere (0171-836-0091) Ritzy (0171-737-2121) Serven on the HIS (0171-435-3386) Virgits Challens (0171-362-5086)

◆ DANTE'S PEAK (12): Volcano tivestens Plance Brosnen and Linda

tweeters Pierce Broemen and Linda. Harminn. Sily script, good effects. ABCa: Baiser Street (0) 71-835 9772) Teitenham Court Road (0) 171-836 6145s Cottage (0) 81899() Odece. Baiss Cottage (0) 81-315 4220) Phoesit: (0) 81-853 2233) Bio (0) 171-254 6577) UCI Whitelegra (0) (0) 90 889907 Virole Fritheregra (0) (0) 171-

888990) Virgin Fulhaus Road (0177-370 2835) Werner 🙆 (0171-437 4343)

pre-TWOOD (18): James Species and Anne Broche mateored in a pretentious Insh drams. Director, Roman O'Leavy, ABC Shaftenbury America (0171-836

in LARGER THAN LIPE (PG): Rat, whitnsical comedy with Bib Munay and an elaphant. Director, Howard Frontier. Odeon Mezzanine (S) (0181-315 4215)

LOVE LESSONS (15): Teenage boy learns about love in warting Sweden

THE MAILWAY CHILDREN (U)

Welcome revival of Lional Jeffries' Jamily classic of 1970, with Jenny

Aguster and Bernard Cribbins

NEW RELEASES

CINEMA GUIDE

leoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (when-ndicated with the symbol •)

* WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO + JULIET (12): ETRIVE ROUSO - JULET (12): Ellerweent contemporary treatment, with Leonardo DiCapto and Care Care Leimann. ABC Tottentam Court Roud (0171-638 6448) Barblean (3) (0171-638 6661) 3323) Notting Hill Coronet (5) (0171-727 8705) Odeons: Kentington 727 6705) Odeons: Kenshiptori (0181-315 4214) Harble Arch (0181-315 4210) Seles Cosses (0161-315 4220) Plana (3) (090) 888990) Resy (0171-737 2121) Scream/Harble Sc (0171-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (3) (020 808990) Wight Cosses (0171-362 5065) Wenter (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT BINASSED OFF (15): Yarkeliliki
colliery band lights for survival. Sugary comedy with a few drops of vineger. With Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzget ton Street (0171-930 0531) 1.928 32321 Rio (0171-254 MFT (0171-928 3232) File (0171-2 8677) Riverside (0181-741 2255)

 THE CRUCIBLE (12): Weighty Version of Anthur Miller's play about 17th-century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder, Denvel Day-Lewis and, best of all, Peul Scotletid, Director, Nicholes Hyther.

Ticket information supplied by Society of Condon Trissins. Oduone: Haymarket (0181-315 4212) Kensington (0181-315 4214) Ritay (0171-737 2121) Virgin Cheinea (0171-382 6086)

© 171-382 5088)

• THE ENGLISH PATIENT (16): Mapmelong Reight Fermes smouthers with
presion for Kristin Scoti Theories.
Berthous (5) (0/11-638 9991) Car

10/11-361 3742) Claspian Picture
House (0/171-488 3323) Curson West
End (0/171-488 3323) Curson West
End (0/171-488 3323) Curson West
Kanalington (0/61-315 4214) Memble
Arch (0/61-315 4216) Strikes Cottage
(0/81-315 4220) Presents (0/81-323
(0/81-339 3402) (16charond (0/81-322
0030) Ric (0/171-354 6677) Ritzy (0/171-373/2121) Scorem on Bullet Street (0171-935 2772) Screen on the Green (0171-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (0990-888 990) Virgin Fultum Road (0171-

◆ STAR WARE (U): The move inuling. With Mark Hamili and Hentson Ford; director, George Lucas. ANC: Exter Street (0)71-935 9772) sem Court Road (0171-638 148) Odeone: Kersinghon (1911-315 6148) Odeone: Kersinghon (1911-315 4214) Lelcester Square (1)61-315 4215) Marbio Arch (19161-315 4216) Series Cottonge (19161-315 4220) RRay (19171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleyn (3)

Stephen Rea struggles to be the own mun Oroll drawns, with Pichard Hants Director, Gillies MacKeynon. Hetro (0171-437 0757

Jarmusch runs wild in the West NEW ON VIDEO

corredy by Flaubert election time in 19th-century France, with candidates mired in sex scandals and corruption. Sounds promising Brahem Muntaly's cast includes Colin Prockler, Jame Soom, ten Pepperell, Tilly Trentaine. Royal Exchange at Upper Campbeld Market (1161-833 9833) Previous begin tonight, 7 30pm. Opens April 8, 7 30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mat Sat, 2 30pm. Until May 3. DEAD MAN

PolyGram, 18, 1995 STRIKING if languorous existential western from Jim Jarmusch, with Johnny Depp as an innocent at large in a frontier world of small-town grunge. vicious hired guns and philosophical-Indians. Robby Muller's dazzling black-and-white photography is a constant delight; and if boredom creeps up as Depp's wanted man travels to his destiny with Gary Farmer's lone Indian, you can only admire Jarmusch's tenacity in sticking to his stylistic guns. Expect some startling cameos along the way, including one from Robert Mitchum. Available to

THE PEREZ FAMILY Film Four, 15, 1996

COLOURFUL if incoherent saga about love, hope and longing among Cuban immigrants in Miami. Immigrants such as Alfred Molina, a plantation owner freed from 20 years in jail, and Marisa Tomei's Dottie, life force and prostitute. Indian director Mira Nair shows her usual sensitivity towards cultural outsiders; she also dithers and drags her heels, shifting between warm comedy and hectic melodrama. For all the foot-tapping Cuban music, the film is best when it plays pianissimo. Available to rent.

ATTACK! MGM/UA, PG, 1956

NORMAN BROOKS'S all-male play The Fragile Fox, about an American infantry group fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, provides an excellent show-case for director Robert Aldrich's forceful style. High-pitched perfor-mances from Jack Palance and Eddie Albert as two officers at loggerheads. The American War Department took a

Wanted men: Gary Farmer (left) and Johnny Depp in Jim Jarmusch's languorous western, Dead Man

dim view of the script's cynical tone. and declined to co-operate with the film-makers.

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS

Second Sight, 15, 1962 IN 1960 John Wyndham's novel The Midwich Cuckoos was turned into a chilling British sci-fi movie called Village of the Damned. His Triffid saga was not so lucky, suffering from a fraught production, variable acting, sequences carry the right nightmare feeling, as when Howard Keel finds everyone else in London blinded by meteorites. The Triffids themselves (plants turned man-eaters) are worth an indulgent smile.

and a particularly weak ending. Some

SCANNERS ATTOW. 18, 1981 THOSE awaiting the British release of Crash may like to while away the

hours with this earlier shocker from David Cronenberg, a tale of a battle for mind control, starring Jennifer O'Neill and Stephen Lack. Behind the spectacularly gory special effects lie interesting ideas about the use of science and the state machine, though the film does not realise them properly. The Broad (1979), a far less digestible Cronenberg movie, is also available.

GEOFF BROWN

15 D

è.

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NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Fluent French songs, a long-lived Dane, and some Irish Victoriana

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THOSE who find Sylvia McNair's soprano just a little too soft-edged in Baroque and Classical repertoire may well warm to her singing in another favoured area: that of French song. This sensitively programmed recital starts with some of the most langoureuse extase in the business: McNair breathes sensucusly through the assonance of Paul Verlaine's vowels. making each of Debussy's Ariettes oubliées more a sigh than a song. Her performance is focused by the sentient stage-management of Roger Vignoles, whose piano-playing creates a thrilling evoca-

horses in Chevaux de bois. A subtle new wash of colour enters McNair's voice for Debussy's two Aquarelles, Green

tion of circling fairground

19th century. Not only did he and Spicen, before four songs by Bizet, including the coy dramatic miniature The Ladybird and the fashionably exotic Arab Hostess's Farewell. Messiaen's early Trois Mélodies, settings of two of his own poems and one by his mother. are given a welcome airing, meeting the world-weary languor of Debussy further

Smiling, fluent performances of three of Fauré's dreams of love, and a selection of Poulenc's mordant Banalitės and Mėtamorphoses complete this generous recital.

downstream, as it were.

DRICHESTRAL

Barry Millington

J. P. E. HARTMANN Symphonies Nos I & 2 Danish National RSO/ Dausgaard

Dacapo 8.224042 E14.49 *** THOUGH self-taught and only a part-time professional composer J. P. E. Hartmann was at the centre of Danish musical life throughout the live almost the entire length of the century - his impressive dates are 1805-1900 - but he held a number of major posts during that time. He was, moreover, some-

thing of a progressive, in that his First Symphony, composed in 1836, had few native precedents, while the Second, of 1848, was found difficult by its first audience. That seems strange now, as both works are brimful of charming melody. easy-going. Schumannharmony and imaginative orchestration. Danish Romanticism shows Hartmann's music to be attractive and accessible and well worth exploring. The performances are excellent. the recording has plenty of bloom and the booklet annotation is admirable.

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

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THE MELODIES of Maritana, a hit on its Drury Lane premiere in 1845, filled Victorian drawing rooms. But time has not treated it kindly, and it has virtually disappeared from the theatre. Hard. though, not to feel affection for once familiar numbers such as Yes! Let me like a soldier fall and the irresistibly titled

Sainted Mother. The plot of a well-born hero who takes an "unknown" bride just before his execution s pure hokum, even if that old ackdaw W.S. Gilbert did thieve it later for The Yeomen of the Guard. But Vincent Wallace could write very singable songs, especially ballads.

Marco Polo's cast is pleas-

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ant, if short on polish. Majella Cullagh is Maritana, the wandering Spanish gypsy who claims the attention of all the men around. Her soprano has an even middle register, but hardens at the top. Paul Charles Clarke too has some sharp tones mingled with robust ones as the aristo who prefers to fall like a soldier before a firing squad rather than be hanged as a criminal. Lynda Lee offers the neatest performance as his faithful companion, who makes sure the squad uses rubber builets. Floria Tosca please note. Jolly accompaniment from

the Irish Radio Orchestra.

* Worth hearing ** Worth considering *** Worth buying

CORRECTION A transmission error resulted in a mistake in a review (April l) by George Pratt. Ton Koopman's recording should have been described as "irrepressibly artful". We apologise for the error.

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THEATRE 1 Oscar Wilde's

cutting edge is blunted in the formulaic melodrama Lady Windermere's Fan



. while Bernard Levin says never mind the dreary psychobabble,

listen to the music

in Lady in the Dark

■ THEATRE 2

THE



TELEVISION

Alternative comedian, actor, screenwriter, producer — will the real Kitty Aldridge stand up?



■ TOMORROW

Meet the pop trio Supergrass, the band who turned down the chance to star in their own television series

Past and present imperfect

a figure who obsessed those who sat in the stalls figure who obsessed of the Haymarket and London's other fashionable theatres a century ago. She often tried to live down her sexual indiscretions, but they always caught up with her, variously reducing her to beggary, forcing her to commit suicide, or dispatching her to a life of repentant ennui in the humdrum suburbs. Shaw came up with his own gloss on the genre in Mrs Warren's Profession, which blamed a permicious society.
Oscur Wilde's Lady Winder-

Amere's Fan is nowhere near as subversive a piece as that. At root, it is as conventionally minded as the best-known of all plays on the theme. Pinero's Second Mrs Tanqueray. That lady, despairing of achieving respectability in duli, prejudiced England, ended up leaping to her death from an upper floor. Wilde's Mrs Erlynne is converted from being a blackmailer by a belated rush of maternal feeling for the child she years and feeling for the child she years ago abandoned for her lover, and makes a demure exit back to the tolerant Continent.

How could the late Victorians have regarded London society with so much reverence, or pondered sexual sin with such morbid horror? How could Wilde, of all people, have pandered to their tastes? True, his play mounts a mild attack on the moral absolutism of Lady Windermere, who doesn't realise that Mrs Erlynne is the "dead" mother before whose picture she prays every day. She eventually learns to moderate her puritan view that people can be divided into good and bad, "as if they were two separate races or creations". But a programme note drawing attention to the current fuss about sleaze in high places cannot convince me

THEATRE

Lady Windermere's Fan Haymarket

that this is an up-to-date piece, or anything but a formulaic melodrama lacking edge and depth.

I mean, listen to the lines. If feel stained, utterly stained. Every kiss you have given me is tainted in my memory"... I gave him all my life. He took it, used it, spoiled it"... This is the last time I shall ever look on you. For one moment our lives met, our souls touched. They must never meet or touch again"..." I cannot trust you, you whose whole life is a lie." Maybe Wilde sniggered into his absinthe as he penned this florid nonsense, but he was too much in love with the prospect of West End success to scratch it out.

What's left are a few sharp epigrams and, in the production Braham Murray has brought from Manchester's Royal Exchange, some nice, unstilted performances. Rebecca Johnson brings a saving sweetness to the priggish Lady W, Richard Hansell a similarly salu-tary boyishness to her dreadfully decent husband, Gabrielle Drake a sveite charm to Mrs Erlynne, and Simon Robson an odd, unsettling intensity to the initially interesting but finally sentimental cad, Lord Darlington. The last of these is the chap who says he can resist everything except temptation, and defines a cynic as someone who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. But does the occasional witticism justify the ride as a whole? Not for me.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Several witticisms short of a great play: Rebecca Johnson (Lady Windermere) clutches that famous fan in Wilde's take on the Victorians' favourite dramatic theme, the woman with a past

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You analyse; I'd rather just listen

SECOND OPINION: Bernard Levin on

the shrink-wrapping of Lady in the Dark

6 Such

ideas have

died away,

but music

will never

die 🤊

there are, you would agree, an enormous number of plays (good or bad) going around, and an astonishing number of them are musicals. Is this a good thing, this plethora of musicals? I am not sure. But I do know that vet another musical has just hit the boards. It comes from America, its origins are from 1941, and famous names made it - Ira Gershwin for the lyrics, Moss Hart for the play, Kurt Weill for the music, I am slightly surprised that it has only now come across the

water. Anyway, I saw and heard it at the National Theatre, It is called Lady in the Dark.

I opened the substantial and attractive programme and my hair stood on end, so far that the people in front of me complained they couldn't see the stage For what had I seen? Two pages of monubilge about mental Sigmund Freud, from Anthony Clare, Professor of Psychi-

atry, who should know better. Why do they do it? For do it they do, again and again. You don't believe me? Then turn another page of the programme and you will find Professor Bruce D. McClung, PhD, who burbles about Moss Hart's psychoanalyst, Dr Lawrence S. Kubie, who gave him the therapeutic directive to finish

... using Kubie's primer Practical

Aspects of Psychoanalysis for his

guide. (And a Godawful guide he

Why do they do it? For there is another full page of drivel before we can come to the music (and, incidentally, has nobody noticed that Freud was blown up into tiny

pieces almost a dozen years ago?) Faugh! Hark to the music. For a great deal of it is fastinating, and a good deal is beautiful. Those days before the war poured out seas of wonderful music — Lady Be Good; Oh, Kay; Strike Up the Band; Of for Freud ...

Thee I Sing and, of course, Porguand Bess. The lyrics were lra Gershwin's. And Moss Hart's plays — You Can't Take It With You, The Man Who Came to Dinner, Once in a Lifetime. They don't come like that now. And if they did, it would be Miss Saigon and The Phantom of the Opera, over and over again.

Nevertheless, there is an interesting theme running through Lady in who, throughout the play, is unable to make up her mind. To this end

she goes into psychoanalysis (the more sad she). Almost all of the men in her life are hardly less wandering in their minds than the heroine. (Groans are allowed when the frequently repeated scene of the pseudo-Freud

comes up yet again.)
But I am falling into my own trap. Forget the professors and the pseudos, and listen to the music. In the play. the heroine is Liza Elliot, and she is

played - superbly - by the real Maria Friedman. But we must now put away anything that does not exist in real life, because the music of this strange, fascinating work gives us at least a dozen beautiful pieces; some delicate, some robust. and there is plenty of genuine laughter to go with it all. People will say that the play is

something of a jumble, and indeed it is. When the play originally opened, people like Gershwin. Hart and Weill got hold of the idea of a world in which the psychiatrist's couch looms more powerfully than the nookie couch. Such ideas have died away, but music will never die, and you might say that music could never die.

So go to Lady in the Dark with a high heart. You will be among great numbers who will enjoy it enormously, and very many will come back to see it again. And as

TELEVISION: Ros Drinkwater meets the multi-talented Kitty Aldridge

Not all frocks and politics

his week Kitty Aldridge makes her first tele-L vision appearance in three years in the BBC adaptation of Minette Walters's thriller. The Ice House. What tempted her after so long? "I'm not a big fan of thrillers," she confesses. "but how often do you find a script featuring women in such prominent roles? At the core what you have is three very real, threedimensional women."

Aldridge is a one-off. The face isn't conventionally pretty, the stick-thin figure is all ingles, and although no one does drop-dead-chic better when the occasion demands, her everyday wardrobe is best described as elegant ragbag.

Few could have survived the stop-start element that has dogged her career, Aldridge began as half of a stand-up comedy duo with her best wriend, Esther Freud, and

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ing at a top London hotel and

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L TEN MICHIGAN



Stop-start: writer, producer and actor Kitty Aldridge

seemed destined for fame as an alternative comedian until the movie world beckoned. Then, as her film career seemed set to soar, she turned down a role for Michael Cimino and launched herself as a screenwriter and produc-

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with making the world a better place - and you got to wear lots of frocks." In the event, her success

took the shape of a series of power-dressed. briefcase-carrying women with whom she had little in common. "I spent a lot of time standing around sets with too much make-up on, thinking what am I doing? That's partly why I stopped

After two years the first film had failed to get distribution. the second collapsed, the marriage ended and Aldridge returned to the small screen in the BBC's award-winning To Play the King, only to have her success overshadowed by tabloid revelations of the new man in her life, pop icon Mark Knopfler (they were married in Barbados in February). Once again she put her acting career on hold and took refuge

pleted Aldridge is writing three scripts. Each deals with modern issues, none has a role for herself. "There's always the danger you write things in them - you know, that thing you do so well with a spoon but it's far more liberating to create fictional characters.*

ast year Aldridge's career took a knock ∡from a different direction when Sharon Hamper, her agent since drama school. retired in a cloud of controversy over the agency's finances. "When the agency closed I thought it might be a good time to stop acting altogether. I think the calling is a perfectly reasonable one. It's a generous thing to do and when it's done well it's a thundering gift to the world, but it's the shenanigans that go with it that I find

excruciating." Could success as a writer tip the scales? "An actress once said to me'l just grew out of it'. but I don't know whether I'll ever be that mature. When I'm writing I feel less of a twerp, but there will always be a part of me that wants to rush across the arena with a big hat and a feather in it."

◆The lo: House is on BBC1 at 9pm on Saturday and Sunday

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Indefatigable prophet of a scientific age

Stephen Jay Gould admires the genius who brought science to the masses

ost of his seven sibness, poverty, alco-holism, or the disgrace of scandal and exile. His father taught mathematics to the future Cardinal Newman, but the school then failed, and the elder Huxley took his family to Coventry and a life of poverty, however middle-class in status. Such circumstances of nature and nurture might not have predisposed T. H. Huxley for his actual career of genius and accomplishment, but such preeminent achievement can arise from any social condition or family background. Hardly anything seems less predictable than the course of an individual's life from the circumstances of his birth. Nonetheless, the times also call forth the man, though we can never tell which man will seize the ring. Thus, evolutionary theory would have triumphed during the 19th

> HUXLEY Evolution's High Priest By Adrian Demond Michael Joseph, E20 ISBN 07181 3882 1

century if Darwin had never been

born - but under what different circumstances and with what divergent results? Similarly, the great social transformation of late 19thcentury British intellectual life -the decline of an Oxbridge Anglican aristocracy that shunned the vulgarities" of science, and the rise of scientific professionalism from a middle class abetted by dissent and industrialisation — would have occurred even without Huxley. But modernity would have experienced a much different and far less interesting birth without the presence of T. H. Huxley as such a brilliant, effective, and indefatigable midwile.

I have a particular reason for beginning my review with this commentary on Marx's famous observation that "men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please." Among historians of 19th-century British science, Adrian Desmond reigns as the current master of studies in social context as a necessary matrix of all intellectual innovation.

He wrote a brilliant book, The Politics of Evolution, to situate this subject in its previously unexamined context of extensive utilisation by agitators and reformers, whose means of expression (broadsides, ephemeral pamphlets etc.) so rarely get preserved in scholarly libraries (and whose influence can therefore become invisible to later generations). With James Moore, he then wrote a wonderful biography of Charles Darwin, again focusing on the social and political conditions of Victorian life that made such an achievement possible for a man with great social advantages of wealth and class, but with so little apparent intellectual promise in his

In completing his two volume biography of T. H. Huxley (volume one, Huxley: The Devil's Disciple appeared in 1994), Desmond has



beautifully consummated the marriage of his unique skills with their ideal subject. Has anvone ever been both more right for a context and more constructed by the opportunity - the central dialectic of greatness, after all - than T. H. Huxley (Churchill and Lincoln come to mind, but their defining moments were shorter)? No one could speak, argue, reason, badger or persuade like Huxley. No one could match his maniacal commitment and his steely conviction. No religious fervour ever exceeded the secular zeal of this man who invented the word "agnostic" for his own convictions. He smote Wilberforce on evolu-

tion. Owen on the hippocampus, Gladstone on the literality of Genesis; he constructed science as a profession available to educated people of all classes by chairing dozens of government committees on educational reform and allied subjects, serving as president of nearly all major scientific societies. and writing scores of essays in a prose style equal to that of the best Victorian novelists. He also enjoyed a singularly happy marriage and, following the tragic death of a beloved son, raised his seven other children to happy and productive lives, mostly in the arts.

But, ironically, Huxley's passionate engagement in his social context brought both enduring influence for his successful causes and relative eclipse for his persona. The concept of celebrity must always face this paradox. A person with a great idea (who can attach his name thereto by a memorable act or document) lives forever, both in myth and biography - the just fate of Darwin. A person who shepherds every major reform through governmental committee, and who slays every source of reaction in brilliant but ephemeral debate. may influence (and ameliorate) millions of lives for countless generations to come, but may fade to relative anonymity when his contemporaries die and no one remembers his guiding light - the unfair fate of Huxley.

o one has understood the relative "scaling" of fame across generations better than Umberto Eco, whose medieval Sherlockian sleuth, William of Baskerville, solves the crime in The Name of the Rose because only he (and the criminal) understand that an ap-parently small thing (the only surviving copy of a book by Aristotle) can be crucial on a scale of centuries, while immediately overwhelming issues (the schism of the papacy between Rome and

Avignon) will not even be remembered in generations to come. Caught in this bias, we write our biographies about the Darwins who endure for ages, and neglect the Huxleys who also forged our history, but whose personal light could not continue to burn as brightly as their influence. How else can we explain the skewed history of scholarship that has erected (with eminent justice) a "Darwin industry" capped by a dozen fine biographies, each different and each full of insight, but had produced not a single major modern biography of T.H. Huxley before Desmond's work? And how can we possibly understand the absence of a biography for either of the two most invisible yet essential players in the great Victorian drama of evolution: the brilliant and individualistic, if conventionally supportive wives, Henrietta Huxley and Emma Darwin. The records and documents exist in abundance. We will never under-stand this cardinal event in human

Stephen Jay Gould's Millennium will be published by Cape in the autumn.

history, this sweetest victory of human knowledge, until we spread

the net of biography across all legitimate scales of influence.

Michael Hofmann enjoys a rattling good anthology

Delightful satchel stuffed with treats

n 1985. Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes edited their first anthology together, The Rattle Bag. It was an inspired and unlikely mixture of old favourites, translations, pieces from the vernacular and the exotic. The order was any old how, there was no apparatus to speak of, and if you were looking for an anthology to enthuse beginners or non-readers, this was the one.

The School Bag is even better. It may sound more designing and thus less attractive - you have a sinking feeling you know what's in a school bag; in a rattle bag you have no idea — but don't be misled by that. The new book is just as delightful, but it also shoulders its responsibilities: I know of no better one-volume account of poetry in English.

What makes Heaney and Hughes such compelling antholo-gists is firstly the fact that they have no peers as poets; both are writing at their absolute peak (see Heaney's The Spirit Level and the poems at the end of Hughes's Selected): both have written extensively about poetry. Heaney in essays and lectures. Hughes in his books on Shakespeare, Eliot and Coleridge; both are branching out into translation (Heaney of Beo-wulf, Hughes of Ovid); their combined authority is thus — perhaps surprisingly — much greater than it was even a dozen

years ago. Then there is the way they complement one another - "when one man casts, the other gathers" as Heaney wrote in a poem to Hughes about fishing together the Irishman and the Yorkshireman, matching each other old for old and new for new, Heaney, I would say, always heading for the centre, Hughes for the margins. The School Bag lives — and so many anthologies are dead — as a vibrant argument between two superb equals.

Most anthologies strangle themselves by their own bootlaces.

Defining themselves by their exclusions, they become essentially defensive, negative books, and are read in a negative spirit; who's not in this, who's under-represented. who's over-represented. You can't read The School Bag in this way. It seems to be bursting at the seams: not only poetry in English, but also in (or from) Old English.

THE SCHOOL BAG Edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes Faher, £12.99 ISBN 0571 177514

Old Scots, Irish, Welsh, Over 50 pieces are by Anonymous. And yet at the other end, there are living poets - and these, by wonderful editorial grace, are not the usual suspects, Ashbery or Walcott or Gunn or Rich, but often older poets of lesser prominence, Judith Wright, Allen Curnow, Kathleen Raine, Stanley Kunitz

What makes the book, though, is having each poet represented by one poem or extract. This has the effect, straightaway, of cutting out all the usual fussy disputes. Instead of grousing about who's in. who's out, and reading the book with a pair of callipers, one has to marvel at what it has accommodated. Here are, first of all, the unget-roundable lyric masterpieces of English poetry, Wyatt's They flee from me and Drayton's Since there's no help; here are Donne's Valediction and Henry King's Exegur, Shelley's Ode to the West Wind and Keats's La Belle Dame Sans Merci: Arnold's Dover Beach and Dylan Thomas's Fern

Then there is a group of longer poems whose length would not normally permit them to appear in a book of this size. Yet here they



Ted Hughes: branching out

Ancient Mariner, of Milton's Lycidas, of the Pardoner's Tale from The Canterbury Tales, the first Canto of Ezra Pound. And where things are excerpted, it is done with wonderful generosity: seven pages of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (in a boisterous translation by Hughes); seven pages from Golding's Ovid; long excerpts from King Lear and Doctor Faustus; 20 pages from Whiman's Song of Myself: 12 each of In Memoriam and The Ballad of Reading Gaol.

Il this is brilliant makine room, one would have to say. But nothing seems to have paid! What's missing? Lovelace, Collins, Poe. Thoreau, Sassoon, H.D., James Wright — nothing really crucial, Whereas against that, how much there is that I never expected to see or never saw before at all: Weldon Kees's poem on the history of the Desert, Samuel Johnson's tender six-line elegy for Claudy Phillips, Musician, Who Died Very Poor, and even the anonymous 6thcentury Irish excoriation of one

And a last note on the order: not chronological, not alphabetical, but associative, by mood or theme. How nothing short of thrilling it is to go from Ginsberg to Piers Plowman to Frank O'Hara to Gray's Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard! And yet, as Pound



Even Proust couldn't save him

WHAT if I never succeed in being happy? It's a question that haunts Kureishi's collection of ten stories, Love in a Blue Time. Its protagonists are intelligent, highly-sexed, creative men. who realise - in a variety of painful ways — that their lives may never be as fulfilled as

they had once hoped. These are quiet realisations. There is little drama in these stories, rather a melancholy, elegiac tone, which masterfully captures a feeling of disappointment, the sort which found its perfect expression in Chekhov's stories. Kureishi has clearly read his Chekhov (he acknowledges the inspiration of The Duel on one of his stories), and his characters are up against some modern equivalents of Chekhovian

His characters are of the selfimproving sort. In one story, a man has decided to read all the classics of world literature, in an attempt to become a wiser, better person. He lies in bed with The Brothers Karamazov, underlining the pasAlain de Botton

LOVE IN A BLUE TIME By Hanif Kureishi Faber, £8.99 ISBN 0.571 17739 5

sages he likes, trying to remember them by heart. But these are doomed efforts, for his problems are too deep, too much has already gone wrong, (a bad marriage, a wrecked career) for the classics to save him now. So Kureishi goes on to tell us: "When he considered his ambitions, which he no longer mentioned to anyone - to travel overland to Burma while reading Proust ... he felt a surge of shame as if it was immature and obscene to harbour such hopes; and as if, in some ways, it was already too late."

Many of Kureishi's characters are frustrated artists; they work in creative fields, but are lacking the necessary discipline or courage to undertake serious work. One filmmaker worships Fellini and Re-

noir, but cannot escape from making pop promotional videos. Professional frustrations are compounded by emotional ones. There isn't a happy marriage to be found herein: women are typically portrayed as uncomprehending killjoys produc-ing babies and at odds with their husband's insatiable sexual and narcotic wishes.

THERE are a few moments when Kureishi's otherwise clear intelligent prose gives way to cliché. In one story. Kureishi cannot resist a journalistic mention of "the Eighties", surely one of the most overused images in recent British fiction ("He had loved that time. The manic entrepreneurialism, prancing individualism, self-indulgence and cynicism ...")
But this cannot spoil what is

ultimately a highly enjoyable and

Alain de Botton's How Proust Can Change Your Life is published this month by Picador.

THE WAS TIMES BOOKSHOP SAVE SA ON THE SCHOOL BAG in new collinberation by the editors of The Rattle Bag Hardrack £16 (RRP £20) Paperback £10.99 [RRP £12.99) Parameters: E16 (BHP 220) Parameters: E10.99 (RRP £12.99) Buy either edition of The School Bay and you can also sale £2 on The Paritie Bay £7.99 (RRP £3.99) You can also have Paritie Bay £7.99 (RRP £3.99) You can also have Paritie Bay £7.99 (RRP £3.99) You can also have Paritie Bay £7.99 (RRP £3.99) You can also have Paritie Bay £7.99 (RRP £3.99) Paritie E10.99 (RRP £3.99) Paritie E10.99 (RRP £3.99) Paritie E10.99 (RRP £3.99) Paritie E20.99 (RRP £3.99) Paritie E20 CALL: 0345 660 916 AT LOCAL RATE Tails at ode 8746504 roje celeseas and the Rehoptic of figurio. Or post coupon to: News Books, FREEPOST, PO Box 345, Felmouth, TR11 28R. Please send me these books (order additional titles on a separate sheet): I enclose cheque/PO(s) payable to NEWS BOOKS for a total of £ Please write your name and address on the back of all cheques Debit my Mastercard/Visa/AmEx, Switch or Delta account no: For Republic of Ireland and overseas orders add 20% to total book cost. Delivery is by airmail in Europe, surface to rest of world. (Airmail outside Europe add 35%.) The suggested retail price of a book can be subject to change by the publisher

without prior notice. Tick box if you prefer not to receive details of other offers

Taken for a ride on Ellington's terms

ne of the most memorable tunes ever written derived from travel directions. A young fellow from Pittsburgh, en route to join his mentor in Harlem, was told the most convenient means of getting there: Take the "A" Train. This signature tune became Duke Ellington's greatest success. Yet only the cognoscenti are aware that it was written for him by a diminutive black man named Billy Strayhorn.

In this splendially researched, beautifully written and deeply moving biography, the American journalist David Hadju describes why Stray-horn punity when he had the supreme talent - a "tortured genius". Diahann Carroll called him — to have become a major musical figure in his own right.

Although Billy Strayhorn was so adept at the classics

Gerald Kaufman

LUSH LIFE A Biography of Billy Strayhorn By David Hadju Granta, £16.99 ISBN 1862070156

for pleasure in the way that others read thrillers, an aquaintance said that, in Strayhorn's early years of promise, "the very idea of a black concert pianist was considered unthinkable." His skills as a composer,

arranger and performer of jazz music were prevented from winning the reputation they rightly deserved because Duke Ellington sucked that reputation out of him like a leech sucking blood. Ellington undoubtedly helped Stray-



Strayhorn: Duke Ellington said the composer was his "favourite human being"

horn, giving him money, a place to live, a career of a kind. and genuine personal affection. Yet all these benisons were conferred on Duke Ellington's own terms: that

Strayhorn deploy his gifts solely in the Duke's service. When Frank Sinatra tried to get Strayhorn to work for him. Ellington, said a colleague, "blew his f top," insisting,

Stella Tillyard on The Iron Duke and Roseanne Cash moves from songs to stories - page 43

"I won't allow it". When Billy Strayhorn tried to break away into an independent partnership with a fellow jazz-pianist. Luther Henderson, Duke Ellington sabotaged the venture.

benefit in return: cover. A colleague is quoted by Hadju as explaining: "For those of us who were both black and homosexual at that time, acceptance was of paramount importance ... Duke Elling-ton afforded Billy that acceptance."

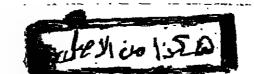
Yet Ellington provided a

t was not only Strayhorn's gay intimates who loved him. Lena Horne, whose unique persona he helped to develop, described him as "my other self", and said, "I wanted to marry him so badly. He was just everything that I wanted in a man, except he wasn't interested in me sexually."

Strayhorn's frustrations led to heavy drinking. The drink E led to cancer, news of which upset Ellington. A theatrical producer reminisces that when "news of Billy's illness came, [Ellington] said he was very upset ... And on top of that he lost a pair of gold cufflinks." Poor Ellington bad news about two items of

property in one evening.
When Strayhorn died in 1967 aged 51. Ellington mourned the death of my favourite human being". Yet this biography shows that Billy Strayhorn's decision to attach himself to Ellington led to a life that was ultimately

If he had not made that trip to Harlem, Strayhorn probably would never have written Take the "A" Train; but what else might he have composed that we shall never hear?



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Section 2

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THE CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO

■ Stronger economy ■ More people in work ■ Doubling living standards ■ Pioneering tax reforms

Why we need a Tory Government

The Conservative administrations elected since 1979 are among the most successful in British peacetime history. A country once the sick man of Successful in British peacetime history. A country once the sick man of Europe, has become its most successful economy. A country once brought to its knees by over mighty powerful trade unions, now has industrial peace. Abroad, the Cold War has been won: at home, the rule of law has been restored. The enterprising virtues of the British people have been liberated from the dead hand of the state. There can be no doubt that we have created a better Britain. Why, then, do we still need a Conservative Government? Because resting on what we have achieved is not enough. To stand still is to fall back. Our goal must be for Britain to be the best place in the world to live.

We live in a tougher, more uncertain world. A fast-moving global free market.

We live in a tougher, more uncertain world. A fast-moving global free market is emerging. New economic powers are rising in the East, Family life and social attitudes are changing. Europe is adjusting to the end of communism. The European social model is failing. The nation state is under threat. We most nd to these challenges.

We have turned around our economic fortunes. We have lewer people out of We have furned around our economic fortunes. We have rewer people out of work and more in work than any other major European economy. British people now have the opportunity of a prosperous future. But that prosperity cannot be taken for granted. We have to compete to win. That means a constant fight to keep tight control over public spending and enable Britain to remain the lowest taxed major economy in Europe. It means a continuing fight to keep burdens off business, maintaining our optout of the European Social Chapter. If we relax for one moment, our hard won success will slip away again.

e have strengthened choice and personal ownership for families, and rolled back the state from areas where it was interfering unnecessarily in our lives. But we now have the opportunity to achieve a massive expansion in wealth and ownership so that more families can enjoy the self-respect and independence that comes with being self-sufficient from the state. Our far-reaching proposals for personal pension funds are central to achieving this - so too are our plans to increase support for the family in our tax system. Our aim is to spread opportunity for all to succeed, whoever they are and wherever they come from provided they are prepared to work hard. To turn the "have nots" into the "haves". To support the family in providing security and stability.

We have modernised and reformed many of the areas where the state still

has a vital role. But we now have to build on these reforms to deliver even better services. We must continue providing the resources to invest in our modernised health service. We can now provide parents with a hard-edged guarantee of standards in schools. We need also to widen choice in areas where state bureaucracy has constrained (t.

We have pioneered new ways of building partnerships that engage the private sector in areas previously dependent on the public purse. We now need to capture private sector investment on a massive scale to regenerate our cities, transform our crumbling local authority housing estates and modernise other

The only way to secure this future of opportunity is to stick with the —Conservative programme of continuing relorm. Now would be the worst possible moment to abandon the pathway to prosperity on which we are set. We must keep up the momentum.

At the same time we must maintain the security that a stable nation provides

in an uncertain, fast changing world. We must protect our constitution and unity as a nation from those who threaten it with unnecessary and dangerous change. And we must stand up for our interests in shaping a free-market Europe of sovereign nation states.

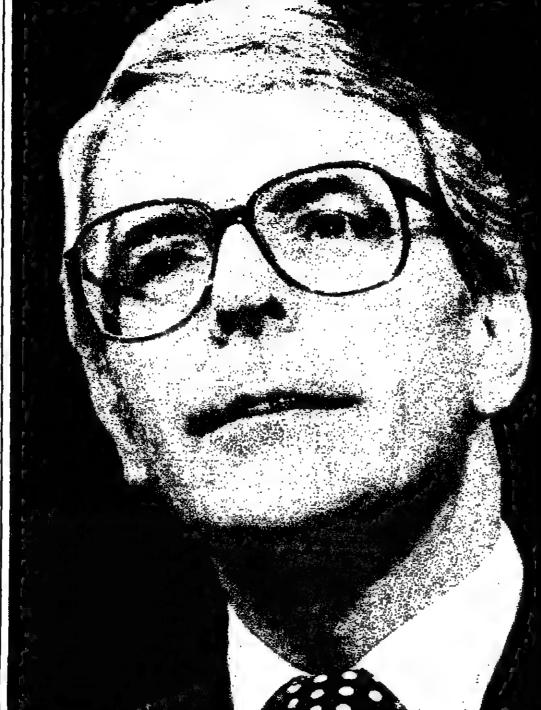
There is, of ourse, an alternative on offer to load costs on business while calling it "stakeholding"; to increase the role of the state, while calling it "the community"; to succumb to a centralised Europe while calling it "not being isolated"; to break up our country while calling it "devolution".

"To risk this alternative would be a disaster for our country. We have come a

very long way. We must be sure that we do not throw away what we have gained, or lose the opportunities we have earned.

You fan only be hire with the Conservatives

JOHN MAJOR



John Major setting out the Conservative vision for Britain at the manifesto launch yesterday

ENTERPRISE CENTRE OF EUROPE

OUR RECORD The UK is on course to grow
Liaster than both France and Germany for the sixth successive year in 1998

- a post-war record. . Inflation has now been below 4% for well over 4 years, the longest period of low inflation for over half a cen-

Mortgage rates are at their low est levels for 30 years. Inemployment has fallen to its

lowest level for 6 years. We now have a lower unemployment rate than any other major European economy. Youth unemployment in Britain has fallen to less than 15% whereas by contrast, in France it has risen to 27% and in liaiv to 33%.

A higher proportion of our people are in work than in any other major European economy - 68% against a Continental average of 57%. The UK is the favourite location for inward investment into Europe. attracting around one third of inward investment into the European

■ We have the lowest tax burden of any major European economy, with the government taking almost 8% less of national income than the European average.

Public borrowing has averaged 3.4% of GDP since 1979 compared with 6.8% (and a peak of 9.5%) under the last Labbour Government. Our level of public debt is now one of the lowest in the European Union - whereas it was one of the highest in 1979.

In 1994 the UK fost 300,000 working days through strikes, the lowest figure ever recorded; in 1979 the figure was 29.500,000: nearly 100 times

Britain ranks fifth in the world in international trade, and exports more per head than America or Jai pan. Exports account for 28% of GDP as against 9% for Japan, 11% for USA and 24% for Germany and

France. Britain's current account is broadly in balance, reflecting our increased competitiveness and improved trading.

I DOUBLING LIVING LSTANDARDS

The free market is winning the battle of ideas the world over. From Russia to Vietnam, from China to Romania, people are realising that the socialist model has failed. This is not just an recommic triumph. It is a triumph for human freedom. Britain helped to is secure it. We should take pride in it,

The sprend of the free market heralds rea new age of global compension. That Means new markets for British goods and services, but new competitors for British companies as well

If we try to protect ourselves from these challenges with more regulations.

public subsidies and a cosy dependence on government then Britain will fail. But at if we boldly embrace these new apportuties by pushing forward the economic revolution we began in 1979, then we will enter the next millennium with boundless prospects for growth and

Prosperity.

1

That choice - between stagnation and dynamism - is the choice which (sees Britain at this election. It is a stark choice between the British way - of trusting the people and unleas enterprise - and the failing social model practised on the continent, which the labour Party wants to impose on us here under the guise of "stakeholding". Hard economic evidence shows how

preat is the divide between these two strategies. Britain is now in its fifth year growing faster than France or Upemplovment in Britain has fallen to less than two million, while it rises across Europe. Britain attracts nearly furty per cent of all the American and Japanese investment in Europe. Our aim now is to safeguard these achievements and build on them, so Britain becomes the unrivalled Enterprise Centre of Europe.

A LOW TAX ECONOMY

For enterprise to flourish, the state must get out of the way of the wealth creators. We are the only party that cun cut taxes because we are the only party which is serious about controlling public spending. The choice between the two economic philosophies is clear. In the years before 1979, public spending in Britain kept pace with the average for Europe as a whole. Since then, it has continued rising on the Continent, while we have restrained public spending here. Now public spending takes about 40% of our income as against an average of 50% on the continent. We have brok free from a trend in which the rest of

Europe is still trapped. Conservative government will keep public spending under tight control and ensure that it grows by less than the economy as a whole over the economic cycle. At the same time we will continue to spend more on the services which matter most to people - hospitals. schools and the police.

Over the neat parliament, we will achieve our goal for the government to spend less than 40% of our national

That means we can reduce the amount government borrows too, and meet our aim of moving towards a balanced budget in the medium term Our plans show how we can virtually eliminate public borrowing by the year

Thanks to our success in controlling public spending. Britain is now Europe's low tax economy. This is one of the reasons why we are becoming the

Enterprise Centre of Europe. Our aim is to ensure Britain keeps the lowest tax burden of any major Eurn-

реал есопоту. In the election manifesto of 1992, we promised that "We will make further progress towards a basic income tax rate of 20p". Since then, we have cut the basic rate of income tax from 25p to 13p, and extended the 20p band so that over a quarter of all taxpayers now only pay income tax at the 20p rate. Achieving our public expenditure goals will mean we can sustain permanently low tax levels. Over the next parliament, our aim will be to achieve our target of a 20p basic rate of income tax, while maintaining a maximum tax rate of no

more than Op. STABLE PRICES

Inflation has to be kept firmly under control for an economy to thrive. Britain

is now enjoying the longest period of stable prices for almost fifty years. We are on target to reach our goal of 21% inflation this year. Low inflation has delivered lower

interest rates whilst preserving the value of people's savings. Homeowners are now enjoying murigage rates at the lowest levels for 30 years. It has taken tough decisions to break

free from our reputation as a high inflation economy. No Conservative ment. During the next parliament, we

RISING LIVING STANDARDS

The only secure base for rising living standards is a strongly growing econ-omy, low levels of public spending and taxation, and stable prices. That is exactly what Britain is achieving. People are reaping the rewards of their hard work as their take home pay increases.

Berween 1974 and 1979, the take home pay for a family on average earnings rose, in real terms, by just £1 a week in today's prices. Since 1979 it has in-creased by £100 a week and; this year alone it will increase by £7 a week.

The goal which we set ourselves in 1995 is to double living standards over

We are on course to achieve our gool.

2 JOBS AND BUSINESS Our priority is to create jobs. This is not just an economic priority, but also a social and moral one, John and enterprise are the best ways of tackling

proverty and deprivation.

Britain is succeeding, 900,000 jobs have been created over the past 4 years. By contrast the European social model is silling job creation on the continent by imposing regulations and burdens on business. In the United Kingdom unemployment is much lower than in the rest of Europe and falling whereas in Germany, France, and Italy it has risen to its highest level for a generation. This is no accident. It is because we have pursued very different policies from

those on the Continent. Curbing the power of trade unions, opening up markets and cutting red tape, have given us a low strike, low cost number one location for foreign investment in Europe.

Never have such policies been so important. For the first time this century we face a world full of capitalist competition. The only way Britain will be able to compete and win in world markets is by sticking to the Conservative policies that are delivering success. We can earn prosperity as one of the world's most successful global trading nations. We should not risk this progress by adopting the very policies that have made the continent uncomperitive and have increased unemployment in Europe by 4.5 million over the past 5

SMALL BUSINESSES - BRITAIN'S

Governments do not create jobs. Businesses do. The source of tomorrow's jobs will be small businesses, the seedcorn of Britain's prosperity. Over the last 15 years, small businesses have created over 2 million jobs. By the year 2000, over half the workforce should be

working in companies which employ fewer than 50 people. Back in 1979 only a third of the workforce did.

Entrepreneurs often risk everything when they set up their own business. W have already helped them; raising the VAT threshold, cutting employer's national insurance contributions, simplify ing audit requirements and much more tackling the remaining problems they

High taxes and rates deter enterprise Our low tax structure has been crucial to our industrial revival. We already have the lowest corporation tax of any major industrialised country. As we want small businesses to flourish, we will go

even lurther. We will cut the small companies rate of corporation tax in line with personal taxation as we move towards a 20p basic

Investment and enterprise are de terred if the tax man takes too much of the capital that is built up by a successful ousiness. Capital is ever more mobile, fiving around the world to places where

We will continue to reduce the burden of capital gains tax and inheritance tax as it is prudent to do so.

One of the heaviest burdens small businesses face is business rates. At the moment, this bears more heavily upon small businesses than large ones. In the next parliament, we will reform business rates to reduce the cost that

falls upon small businesses No businessman has time to fill out reams of forms. We will continue to amplify the administration of NICs and PAYE for small firms, allowing them to concentrate on satisfying customers no problem that hits small businesse particularly hard - the late payment of bills. On top of our programme to ensure government departments and local authorities pay on time we have legislated to require companies to pub-lish their payment policy and to report their record on how quickly they pay

their bills to small business We have already abolished over a thousand regulations. New regulations must only be introduced if it is clear that their benefits exceed their costs and they do not place an undue burden on a small

We will introduce "sunset" requirements into new regulations whenever it is suitable so that they are automatically reviewed or dropped after a specific period Many businessmen suffer regulatory

burdens imposed by local government and quangos. We will therefore insist that the whole of the public sector adopts the same stringent rules that we require of central government in justifying the benefits of

new regulations against their costs. REDUCING THE BURDEN ON COMPANIES

John depend on British firms winning orders: the difference between success or failure can be wafer thin. Any extra

burden on business will destroy jobs. Britain is enjoying more jobs and record investment, thanks to the compet inve edge we have over other European countries. We are a low onst economy economy. Our competitive advantage

comes from the lower costs facing our

social costs an employer has to pay on top of every £100 of wages: in Germany it is £31, in France £41, but in Britain, it is oniv EIS. Many countries in Europe have tried to cocoon themselves from global com-petition behind layers of red tape and regulation - such as the Social Chapter and a national minimum wase. This provides a false sense of security, playing a cruel trick on working people.

it also excludes the unemployed from work. As companies in the rest of Europe have grown more uncompetitive, employers have found it too expensive to employ new workers, investment has gone elsewhere, and the dole queues have lengthened. The European social model is not social and not a model for us to follow. But if Britain signed up to the Social Chapter it us - destroving British jobs.

No Conservative government will sign up to the Social Chapter or introduce a national minimum wage. Conference in Amsterdam that our op out is honoured and that Britain is exemosed from the Working Time Directive: if old agreements are broken. we do not see how new ones can be made. We will resist the imposition of other social burdens on the work place through a new European employment chapter.

WELFARE INTO WORK

Although governments cannot create jobs, they can help train and find work. We now have in place a battery of schemes working with Training and Enterprise Councils to provide targeted nelp and training, including remedial education in literacy and numeracy. We are also developing new incentives, alongside Family Credit, to help people move off benefit into work.

We will always help those in genuine need: in return, the unemployed have a responsibility to look for work and accept a reasonable offer. That belief underpins our new Jobseekers Allowance which ensures that no-one can refuse reasonable work opportunities and remain on benefit.

As unemployment falls, we want to focus on those who have been unemployed for some time At present. Project Work is helping 100,000 people who have been unemployed for more than 2 years in cities around Britain. They are first given help in finding a job which includes giving employers incentives to take them on.

Those who do not find jobs are then required to work for a specific period on a community project. This helps them regain work habits and ensures they are available for work. As Project Work succeeds and dem-

onstrates that its costs can be met by the savings from getting people into work, we will extend the programme to cover the long term unemployed nationwide.

We will also develop an innovative "Britain Works" scheme which uses the experience and ingenuity of private and voluntary sectors to get people off welfare into work.

Britain has one of the most mobile economies in Europe. People move on and up, into better paid jobs more easily than on the Continent.

THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Britain is at the forefront of creating tomorrow's information society. Already we have exposed domestic telecommuni-cations to competition and stimulated investment in cable and satellite entertainment systems. And by opening up international telecommunications we will continue to encourage companies worldwide to base their global operations here. We will make sure that the digital revolution comes to Britain first.

We are launching an ambitious programme with industry to spread "If for All", giving every adult the opportunity to try out and learn about new IT services. We will work with industry to ensure that all schools are connected to the information superhighway. We will use the Millennium Lonery Fund to transform the computer facil-

ities and information links available in schools, libraries, museums, voluntary organisations and other public places after the turn of the century. This will give the public much wider access to information services in the years ahead. We will also take advantage of information technology to ununsform the way government provides services to the

We will keep Britain in the vanguard of new mobile service development including mobile telephone and information services - by introducing a pricing system for the radio spectrum to achieve more efficient allocation of radio

We will maintain a strong, free and competitive broadcasting and press environment at both national and local level, while condinuing to be vigilant in monitoring whether action is needed to curb breaches of standards, and prevent unacceptable press intrusion.

British science enjoys a worldwide reputation for excellence and costattractive base for many domestic and overseas companies. We will continue to invest in science and target funds at basic research, which would not otherwise be funded by industry. At the same time we will provide an enterprising environment which encourages firms to invest with confidence in applied

2020 VISION

There is no part of the globe which has not been reached by British enterprise and British culture. We have always looked our beyond these shores, beyond this Continent. Our language, our heritage of international trading links. our foreign investments - second only to America's - are historic strengths which mean we are ideally placed to seize the opportunities of the global

Conservative policies of liberalisation and privatisation we are strong in industries of the future such as telecommunications, financial services and information technology. These are the industries that will benefit from opening up trade around the world. We will push for completion of the Euro-pean Single Market and continue to pursue the objective of transatiantic free trade against the background of world

less than tariff free trade across the globe by the year 2020. Free competition is important for free markets. Companies should not make agreements that restrict competition and hence result in poor value for consumers. We have set out proposals to give companies greater protection against price fixing, dumping, and other restrictive practices by larger compet-

We will introduce a Competition Bill to take forward these proposals in the first session of the next parliament. We are committed to pushing forward our competitiveness agenda which is making Britain the Enterprise Centre of

OPPORTUNITY AND OWNERSHIP

OUR RECORD The right to buy has allowed 1.5 million council tenants to homeowners nomeowners today than in 1979. The Government has spent £6 billion through housing associations to provide homes for rent. Between 1992 and 1995 housing associations vided 178,000 new lettings - 25.000 more than promised in the 1992 Mani-

■ There are now around 10 million private shareholders, up from about 3 million at the time of the last Labour government. 2.5 million people now have tax free savings in PEP accounts, and 4.5 million in TESSAs. ■ Since 1979, the success of private pension provision has raised the average income of pensioners by 60% more than inflation. Almost 90% of recently retired pensioners now have incomes over and above state benefits.

Savings in private pension funds have increased to £650 billion - more than 4 times the level in 1979. Their value is greater than the pension funds in all other EU countries added

Over the period 1979 to 1995, education spending per pupil rose from £515 to £1.890 - an increase in real terms of 48%. Real spending on books and equipment per pupil rose 56%. Teachers' real pay rose 57%: from £270 per week in 1979 to £420 in 1995.

in 1979, 40% of three and four year olds attended nursery school; in 1995 the figure was 59%. Our nursery vouchers now give this opportunity to every child.

■ The proportion of sixteen year olds staying on in full-time education rose from 4 out of 10 in 1979 to 7 out of 10 in 1995.

■ Almost 1 in 3 young people now go to university, compared with 1 in 8 in 1979. ■ The proportion of adults with no academic qualifications has halved since 1979 and the proportion of adults with a degree or equivalent has more than doubled from 5% to 12%.

3 CHOICE AND SECURITY FOR FAMILIES

The family is the most important institution in our lives. It offers security and stability in a fast-changing world, But the family is undermined if governments take decisions which families

ought to take for themselves. Self-reliance underpins freedom and choice, Families are stronger if they have the money to look after themselves: that is why we are shifting power and wealth back to working families and away from the state. We have already achieved much - the average family's disposable income has gone up by 40% since 1979, But we want to go further. The next Conservative government intends to

reform the tax system so that it gives substantially more help to families. We also want to encourage people to save so they have the security and self-respect that comes from being able to rely on their own resources rather than immediately turning to the state. We have already made much progress here too with widening ownership of homes, pensions, and the new PEPs and TESSAs. We now propose further radical measures for more saving for

FAMILIES AND TAX

We believe families should be left with as much of their own money as possible. They know better than politicians how to spend it. We have already cut the basic rate of income tax from 33p to 23p. and our aim is to get it down to 20p, benefiting 18 million taxpayers. We intend to do even more to help familles

At the moment, if one spouse does not take paid work in order to look after children or dependent relatives, they not only give up earnings but may also be unable to benefit from their personal tax their income is often most stretched. We believe our rax system should

recognise and support the crucial role of families in their caring responsibilities. We will give them that support.

We will give priority to future reductions in personal taxation that help families looking after dependent children or relatives by allowing one partner's unused personal allowance to be

transferred to a working spouse where they have these responsibilities. This will provide a targeted reduction in the tax bill to those families who need it most. Around 2 million one taxpayer couples with dependent children, or looking after elderly relatives and others needing care, would gain up to £17.50 a

week — around £900 a year.

In the old days people just depended on the weekly pay packet or money from the state. But no job can be secure and the state cannot provide for every eventuality. It is ownership which brings true security and genuine in-dependence from the state. That is why Conservatives have long dreamed of a

property-owning democracy. Now we are delivering it in practice. Home ownership is up by 4.7 million. 10 million people own a direct personal stake in our economy. Io million are gaining shares in their building societies thanks to our deregulation of them. We intend to carry forward our vision of a

people's share. This is a significant increase in personal security. It is the Conservative vision of security through personal savings — not a socialist vision of security through the state.

We want people to enjoy Britain's success — especially by owning shares in the companies for which they work. We have already introduced a number of schemes to encourage employee share ownership. To encourage a further expansion of worker shares, our new Share Match Scheme will allow employees to be rewarded with additional free Our goal is that by 2000, more than

half of the employees of Britain's larger companies will own shares in those

4.5 million people now benefit from tax free TessaS and 2.5 million from Pep schemes to encourage the accumulation of long term saving. We will continue to build on this success by exploring ways in which existing tax exemptions for savings can be developed — allowing individuals to secure their futures and protect their families against unexpected

contingencies.

We will continue to raise the threshold for inheritance tax as it prudent to do so. selves but for their children and grandchildren. These savings should not be

penalised by the tax system. For many people their biggest asset is their pension. Thanks to the steps we have already taken to encourage occupational and personal pensions, we now have £650 billion invested in private pensions - more than the rest of the European Union put together. We now plan to build further on this

achievement We will make it easier for small employers to set up personal pension plans for groups of employees.

We will create more flexibility for people who save in personal pension plans to continue investing in those schemes if they subsequently move to jobs with company pension schemes.

We will also create flexibility for employees with savings in Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) schemes to take part of that pension earlier or later than their main company pension. But we believe the time has now come

to plan for another important step in improving Britain's pension provision. Britain is already much better placed than many other countries to afford state pensions in the future, but we want even more people to be able to look forward to

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page a properly funded pension that grows with the economy and is free from dependence on taxes paid by future generations. We now propose a practical way of achieving a gradual transformation of the state pension scheme.

At the start of the next parliament we will set out proposals to provide all young people entering the workforce with a personal pension fund paid for through a rebate on their national insurance contributions. At retirement they would be entitled to the full pension earned by this accumulated investment. This could give them a pension significantly higher than they would currently receive from the state. But they with be guaranteed a pension at least equal to the current basic state pension, increased in line with inflation.

This will be one of the most significant improvements in the state pension system since it was introduced. Older people currently in the workforce would be unaffected - they will continue to contribute as now and receive the normal state pension when they retire.

This policy would come into effect

early in the new millennium. Gradual phasing in of the new system over 40 years will make the impact on public finances affordable. Even at its peak, the net revenue forgone will be only a fraction of the savings from the recent Pensions Act. And eventually, the new policy will produce massive public

expenditure savings.

This far-sighted idea is in the best Conservative tradition. The growing wealth of the nation will provide for the next generation through private funding, underpinned by a state guarantee. British people will be able to look forward to retirement with even greater confidence. And our young people will

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Conservatives believe that a healthy society encourages to accept respon-sibility for their own lives. A heavyhanded and intrusive state can do

Some families need help to cope with their responsibilities. For them, Social Services play a vital role. They help with children where parental care has failed. They deliver an ever wider range of services to people with learning diffi-culties or who are mentally ill. Our community care reforms have given them a central role ensuring that elderly people get care of the highest quality; and in their own homes where possible. We need to ensure that role is properly hiffilled.

Early in the next Parliament we will introduce a Social Services Reform Bill which will create a new statutory framework for social services. The Bill will provide for greater openness and accountability in social services.

We will provide new guidance to ensure social workers properly reflect the values of the community — focusing their efforts on those families who most need support, and minimizing unnecessary interference. Social workers working with children will receive special training to cope with the often neart-rending cases they face.
We will raise standards through a

new regulatory framework which will apply the same standards in both the public and private sector.

We will also remove the power of local authorities to operate care homes where this is in the best interests of the people for whom they are responsible. We believe that families who use social services should be able to exercise choice wherever practicable. We have given cash payments to disabled peop purchase the services they need directly. individual choice where possible. We will therefore ensure no barriers stand issue their users with vouchers to buy

We will review the direct payment scheme, and provided it has been cost effective, we will extend it to other users

Above all, we want to help families to help themselves. Caring for older - or oled — relatives is one of the most natural human instincts. We recognise the crucial — and often demand role carers play, and will help them

We will introduce a Respite Care Programme. This will enable family members with heavy responsibilities needed break. We will also offer more practical advice for carers who want to go back to paid work. But in some cases. elderly people need more care than their friends or relatives can provide. Financing long term care worries many families. We will create an imaginative, fair parmership between individuals and the public sector to resolve this

Parliament we will implement our partnership scheme for long term care, making it easier for people to afford the cost of care in old age without giving up

their lifetime savings.

Good preparation for marriage can be an important aid to a successful family. while timely help in meeting difficulties can often avoid family breakdown. These are matters for voluntary effort, not the state, but we will continue to support such effort. We need to make sure efforts to help struggling families does not turn into unnecessary

When the state goes too far, it is often the children who suffer. They become victims of the worst sort of political

We will introduce legislation to remove unnecessary barriers to adoption and introduce new rules to make adoption from abroad more straight-

We will also monitor the workings of the Children Act, and act if necessary to ensure it maintains a proper balance between the rights of children and the responsibilities of adults.

Social Services departments are now the fourth arm of the welfare state. Most people will need them at some point in their lives. We will ensure that the Conservative revolution in public services now reaches Social Services.

We have quadrupled real spending on long term sick and disabled people since

1979, to £22 billion. We have introduced the Disability Discrimination Act. This is the first legislation of its kind anywhere in Europe and it provides positive proof of our commitment to disabled people. We will monitor it to ensure it continues to meet its objectives.

We are also providing a continuing fund to support the most severely disabled people to stay in their homes.

contribution to society in retirement. They give more of their time in charitable work than any other age group. They lift some of the pressures on their own families. They help keep our nation's history and traditions alive.

They have paid their National In-surance contributions and taxes and rightly expect us to continue to protect the value of the basic state pension against price rises. We will do so. We will also ensure that less well off pensioners continue to get extra help on top of the basic pension.

At the same time as protecting the state pension, our encouragement of private pensions is already transform-ing the living standards of pensioners. The average net income of pensioners has risen by 60% since 1979. This has been achieved by our encouragement of saving for retirement.

The tax system must help pensioners who have saved. Our new lower 20p rate on income from savings directly helps 1.7 million pensioners and the special age allowances raise the point at which pensioners start to pay income tax.

SECURITY SYSTEM

People in need can rely on our contin-uing support. And to ensure that taxpayers are willing to go on paying for that support, we have shaped a social security system we can afford, taking a steadily declining share of our national income. We are doing this by focusing benefits on those most in need, helping people off welfare and into work, and subtice analysis found. These policies curbing welfare fraud. These policies are underpinned by our measures to help families help themselves.

Social Security must be there to help families, pensioners and people in need. We will protect the value of Child Benefit and Family Credit which help with the cost of bringing up children. This is our Family Benefits Guarantee

We will bring the structure of benefits for lone parents into line with that for two-parent families. We will continue to help lone parents obtain maintenance, and assist with childcare in work: both these measures help lone parents obtain work. We will pilot our "Parent Plus" Scheme that gives special help to lone parents who want to work, and extend it as it proves successful.

Social Security fraud must be stamped out. We will intensify our current initiatives of inspections and checks including more home visits, to crack down further on benefit cheats. We will introduce benefit cards across the country. We will establish a Benefit Fraud Inspectorate to monitor local authorities' performance. We will also improve the sharing of information between government departments to catch more fraudulent

To ensure as much of the Social Security budget as possible goes into benefits, we will continue to improve the efficiency of administration, using the best mix of public and private sector

HOUSING

Owning one's own home is an aim shared by millions of people. Over the last 18 years, the number of homeowners has increased by 4.7 million — including 1.7 million who bave brought their home under the right to buy scheme. Over the next 10 years, we expect to see about one and a half million people buying their own homes — some 3,000 every week. To meet that demand, we will continue to allow local authority and housing association tenants to buy their homes or move to houses which they buy. We will also carry through our draft Bill, creating the option for those buying

For those who wish to rent their home. we are encouraging a thriving private rental market, building on the success of housing investment trusts and protect-

ing assured tenancies. Easier renting will help us meet our target of reducing the proportion of empty homes below 3%. The number of empty houses has fallen in each of the last 3 years. But nothing is more frustrating for people who need social housing than the sight of a suitable property owned by the public sector lying boarded up and empty. We will

stop that Public landlords will have to sell houses which are available for occupation yet have been left empty without a Housing associations and housing companies will continue to receive help in building new homes, and we will encourage more public - private partnerships. Together, these policies will help meet the demand for new public housing and make sure that there

are decent homes for those in need. OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Women are succeeding in Britain. More women have jobs in Britain than in almost any other European country. Women have a better education, more financial independence and more opportunities than at any other time in

Pritain's history.
This success reflects the efforts and determination of many women. Government's role has been simpler - to level up the playing field, whether in education, where girls are now doing better than boys, or in the workplace, where opportunities for women are the best in

But we know our job is not yet done. Some women still face barriers to doing well. Some still do not have the financial security they deserve. And crime, and the fear of crime, often affect women

We will ensure women have equa opportunities in education and the workplace. This can best be achieved by keeping our economy buoyant and our labour markets flexible. And our proposals to bring crime rates down further will help women especially.

But many women — and some men — face a particular problem: how to juggle job and family. For those who need or want to work, we will seek further ways to minimise the barriers to affordable, high quality childcare. For those who wish to be full-time parents, our proposals to enable them to transfer their unused personal allowance to their spouse will be worth up to an extra £17.50 a week.

We also want to give women more financial independence, particularly when they retire. We propose, as explained elsewhere, to improve lieability in saving for retirement and to allow courts to split pensions on divorce.

LOOKING OUTWARDS

The spread of share ownership, the transformation of pension provision. and the sale of council houses are revolutionising our nation. Personal prosperity and property ownership are not selfish or inward-looking. People who are secure at home can

'We will set targets to ensure that Britain is in the top league in the world in education'

look out for others in their community. Over two thirds of adults engage in some form of voluntary activity. By the end of 1997 all young people aged between 15 and 25 who want to volunteer will be helped to find an opportunity to

We will encourage voluntary work by others living on benefit while continuing to insist that those who are capable of work should actively seek employment. We will also develop accreditation for voluntary work to encourage employers to see it as preparation for a paid job.

We will make it easier for those receiving incapacity benefit to volunteer

by removing the 16 hour weekly limit on their voluntary work.

It is wrong to imagine that compassion must be nationalised and that we can only help our fellow man through state action.

EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY

All children dream of what they might do when they grow Our task is to help them turn those dreams into reality whatever their background may be. It is an exciting world, full of new opportuan excuring world, run of new opportu-nities for inquiring minds: it should be open to every child. Their future - and Britain's prosperity - depends on the quality of their education.

OUR EDUCATION GUARANTEE A good education is the birthright of

every child. Literacy is the building block of all future learning. English is the global language of commerce and, much more, a thing of beauty. Without basic science and mathematics, the modern world is incomprehensible. Every child therefore must be taught to read, write and add up from an early

Years of mistaken, progressive edu-cation in the 1960s and 1970s denied these precious skills to too many children. We have worked ceaselessiy since 1979 to put that right. Our decision to test children and publish the results has allowed standards to be measured and exposed. We have reformed the curriculum, toughened inspections, and given more information and power to parents. Our many excellent teachers now know what is expected of them, and already standards in schools are rising. But they are still not good enough. We

must do more.

Building on what we have done, we can now offer a new pledge to parents— a guarantee of education standards. First, we will set national targets for school performance that reflect our objective of ensuring that Britain is in the top league of international standards across the whole spectrum of education. Second, we will require every school to plan how to improve its performance,

and to set targets which relate to similar schools and national standards. Third, we will give all parents full information on the performance of their

child's school. will ensure action is taken to bring any

under-performing school up to the We will meet this pledge by using the full set of levers for improved standards

We are revising and simplifying the National Curriculum in primary schools to emphasise high standards in the basic obition.

the basic skills. Parents and teachers must have an overview of not just how much a child has learnt while at school, but how the school performs against others. Poor schooling must not be protected by a vell of secrecy. Parent power is a vital force

for higher standards. Regular tests and exams are essential if teachers are to discover how much their pupils have learnt, and parents are to know how much progress their children are making against national standards. That is why children are already being tested at 7, II and 14. We will publish all school test results, including the results of tests of 7 and 14

vear olds We propose also to assess every child at five. This will give teachers and parents a benchmark against which they can measure future progress. To give a better measure of pupils perior-mance, marks out of 100 will be made available to parents as well as the broad-

brush levels. year old children that covers the whole National Curriculum — assessing

Tests and exams need to be rigorous and demanding. We will insist that they establish children's command of spelling, punctuation, and grammar in English tests. Children will sit arithmetic tests without calculators. We will not allow such extensive use of open books in tests and in GCSE exams. We will establish an English Language GCSE. We will continue to uphold the gold standard of A levels, and ensure that the great classics of our literature are studied at A level. At the same time idents should have the chance to study

more subjects in the sixth form. Rigorous tests show how individual children and schools are performing and expose schools that are not giving children the education they deserve. To underwrite our guarantee, we will then take action to improve standards. We cannot tolerate schools that fail their pupils. By this summer every secondary school in the country will have been inspected by independent inspectors, and by summer 1998, every primary school will have been inspected as well. We have the power to take over failing schools directly and close them if necessary. We will now go further and

regular targets and plans for improving their academic results. Independent inspectors will monitor the results of weaker schools and their plans for improvement at regular intervals.

Sometimes, though, schools are fail-ing because the local education authority which runs them is failing. The authorities with the worst GCSE results year-olds) are run by Labour. Those children need our help.

We will allow for an independent inspection of education authorities and

intervene directly to raise standards where education authorities are letting children down.

Failing authorities will be required to set out their plans to raise standards, and work with education teams directed by independent inspectors — to implement those plans.

The vest majority of teachers do an outstanding job. They have played a key part in Implementing the reforms that we have introduced. A few though, fail their pupils.

We will establish a more rigorous and

effective system of appraising teachers, which reflects how well their pupils perform in tests and exams: this will identify which teachers need more help and, where necessary, which teachers need to be replaced.

Many feel that the professional stand-

ing of teachers would be strengthered by the creation of a single body which could speak with authority on professional standards. We will consult with teachers and other interested parties about the possible role of such a

The school should be a place of stability and stimulation for children, especially if they come from a hostile or turbulent environment. To improve training curriculum will stress tra-ditional teaching methods — including whole class teaching and learning to read by the sounds of letters. We will also encourage more teachers to enter the profession through practical training schemes focused on classroom experience such as the Graduate Teacher Scheme. A child is likely to learn more in a well-ordered school. Teachers must have the powers they need to maintain discipline. We will give teachers greater power to set detentions to exclude disruptive pupils and to use reasonable physical restraint where

Schools also have an important role to play in spiritual and moral education. We will take steps to ensure that every religious education and collective

CHOICE AND DIVERSITY

When we came to power in 1979 the schools system was totally dominated by one type of school - the monolithic comprehensive. The system failed our children. It treated every child the same. It told parents where to send their children. It did not give schools the freedom to run their own affairs.

Since 1979 we have created a rich diversity of schools, to serve the varied alents of all children and give parent choice within that diversity, because we believe that parents know what is best

That is why we — and only we — are committed to giving the parent of every four-year-old child a voucher for nursery education so they can choose the prechild, whether in a play-group, a reception class, or a nursery school in

the private or state sector. We will give more talented children, from less well-off backgrounds, the opportunity to go to fee-paying schools by expanding the Assisted Places Scheme to cover all ages of compulsory education. In line with our current spending plans. We propose to develop It further into a wider scholarship scheme covering additional educational opportunities. The treedoms and status

fee-paying schools will be protected. Grant-maintained schools have been popular with parents across the country - whatever their politics. We will encourage more schools to become grant-maintained and will allow new grant-maintained schools to be set up We will give all grant-maintained schools greater freedoms to expand and

to select their pupils.

Gram-maintained schools are leading the way. Local authority schools are als benefitting from our policy of local management of schools. Our ultimate objective is that all schools should take full responsibility for the management of their own affairs. In the next parliament we will take another step towards giving them that freedom.

We will extend the benefits of greater self-governance to all LEA schools. We will require local authorities to delegate more of schools™ budgets to the schools themselves. We will give them more freedom over the employment of their staff and over admissions. And, where they want it, we will allow them to take over ownership of their assets, so they can make best use of the resources. Local authorities will continue to be

dards. They will provide funds, and compete with other organisations to provide services to schools. We would expect the increased responsibility of ead-teachers, and their role in achieving efficiency-savings, to be recognised by their pay review body. Schools are stronger and more effective where head-teachers and governors can shape their own distinctive

character. Sometimes that means

responsible for their schools^{he} stan-

by their aptitudes: where parents want this we should not stand in their way. Special abilities should be recognised and encouraged.

We will continue to encourage the establishment of more specialist schools in technology, arts, languages and sport We aim to help one in five schools become specialist schools by 2001. We will allow all schools to select

some of their pupils.

We will help schools to become grammar schools in every major town where parents want that choice. The high standards, real choice and genuine diversity which we have introduced will produce the best results for all our children.

LIFETIME LEARNING

Lifetime learning is a reality in Britain today. Over a half of all students in universities, and seventy per cent of those in further education colleges, are adults who have returned to education later in life. We will continue to create new opportunities for more people to

participate.
There has been a revolution in further and higher education. Three and a half million people are in further education -up from just half a million in 1979. The number of young people going to university has risen from one in eight to

one in three over the same period. We will ensure consistently high standards and will consult on the development of higher education when we receive the results of the Dearing Review. We have world class research in British universities which we will con tinue to support.

Every young person should have the opportunity to continue in education or

training. We will give students between 14 and 21 a learning credit which will enable them to choose suitable education or training leading to recognised qualificatraining leading to recognised qualifications up to A levels or their equivalents.

We will also introduce National
Traineeships and encourage employers
to offer more work-based Modern
Apprenticeships to young people. Objective external assessments of a proper
syllabus will be made a part of all
National Vocational Qualifications.

We will continue to support the

We will continue to support the network of Training and Enterprise Councils, which have created a valuable ernment. We will encourage more employers to become involved in "Investors in People", with the public sector matching the performance of the private

sector. Competitive markets demand high skills. If Britain is to win, we need to encourage learning and give people the opportunity to go where their interests and inquiring minds take them.

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Government spending has co centrated on priorities, not wasteful bureaucracy and overmanning. Despite tough overall spending plans, real spending on the National Health Service has risen nearly 75 per cent since 1979, on schools by 50 per cent and on the police by more than 100 per cent. The health service is treating over one million more patients each year than before our reforms.

The number of people waiting over 12 months for hospital treatment has fallen from over 200,000 in 1990 to 22,000 last year. The average wait has fallen from nearly nine months to four

The Government has set up the Citizen's Charter to provide first-class public services for all citizens. Nearly 650 organisations have received a Charter Mark for meeting demanding standards of performance, customer satisfaction and value for money. ■ There are now 55,000 more nurse and mid-wives and 22,500 more doctors

and dentists than in 1979. For every senior NHS manager, 77 people are providing direct patient care.

Nurses average earnings have grown 70 per cent in real terms: from 568 a week in 1979 to £325 in 1995. Doctor's pay has risen by a third. Under

Labour both were cut. ■ Infant mortality has fallen from 13.2 to 6.2 per thousand over the last 18 Vears.

now the lowest since records began in 1926. Since 1979 road deaths have fallen by 43 per cent and serious casualties have fallen by 43 per cent despite an 85 per cent increase in motor traffic. The Government has invested record amounts on transport - more than £26 billion since 1979 in investment on motorways and trunk roads; £16 billion on railways; and over E8 billion on

London Transport.

Privatisation is delivering better services at lower costs. BT's main prices are down by more than 40 per cent rea terms. Average household bills for gas and electricity have also fallen in real terms since 1990.

5 SECURITY IN HEALTH

We have been the guardians of the NHS for most of its life, improving its services and securing its funding. The benefits can be seen in our rising standards of health. 1993 was for example the first year in which no child in this country died of measles. Between 1979 and 1995 life expectancy at birth in England has increased from 70.4 years to 74.3 years for men and from 76.4 years to 79.6 developing a speciality in some subjects. years for women. We are getting

healthier and we are better looked after | fewer things and doing them better. Old-

GROWING RESOURCES FOR A

This progress has been possible because this progress has been possible occalive
we have increased spending since 1979
by 70 per cent more than inflation, to
nearly 523 billion. And we are not
stopping there. The next Conservative
government will honour a unique guarantee to the NHS. We will continue. year by year, to increase the real resources committed to the NHS, so NHS spending will continue to share in

a growing economy.

Under Labour there have been years when resources for the NHS actually shrank — something that would be inconceivable with the Conservatives. Money is only really a means to an end: better patient care. Now we are treating 9.2 million hospital inpatients and day cases as against 6.9 million in 1992 and 5.1 million in 1979.

INVESTING IN SKILLED STAFF

We are committed to expanding the medical staff of the NHS. We shall therefore increase medical school intakes to 5,000 a year by the year 2000 and are ahead of schedule in reaching the reaching

and are ahead of schedule in reaching the target.

Good nursing is the bedrock of the NHS. In particular we will increase the number of nurses with specialist qualifications in paediatric intensive care, emergency care, and cancer care. The number of nurses qualifying each year will increase in each of the next five years as we continue to expand Project

HIGHER STANDARDS OF SERVICE

We are tackling the problem of long waiting times which can cause so much worry, distress, and pain. We have set tough targets under the Patient's Charter and as a result average waiting times for inpatient hospital treatments have fallen from more than six months five

years ago to four months last year. Patients no longer put up with being kept in ignorance. They want to know more. We will publish more information on how successfully hospitals are treat-Ing patients so that they and their GPs can make more informed choices between services in different hospitals and help stimulate better performance.

BETTER PRIMARY CARE

Our vision of the NHS is one in which hospitals and family doctors gain greater power to run their own affairs. That is why we will continue to encourage the spread of fundholding among GPs. Labour by contrast would destroy the new freedoms that fundholding docsors enjoy by imposing a new layer of bureaucracy on top of

However, we do not want the benefits of better healthcare to be confined to patients of GP fundbolders. Our proposals to shift more healthcare towards

family doctors are open to all. We shall implement the new Primary Care Act which will enable all family doctors to provide a broader range of patient services within their surgeries. This will include "super surgeries" and practice-based cottage hospitals that can offer faster and more local treatment. We expect to see the number of nurses working in GP practices continue to grow, as will the number of GPs. We will extend nationwide our plans to range of drugs for patients, recognising their contribution to primary care.

MENTAL HEALTH

changes to the care of mentally ill people. We will continue to develop a full nursed hostels and secure units — that can care for them in a way which is most appropriate to them and the interests of

the wider community. We will not close any long-stay mental adequate care services exist in the community. We will strengthen cooperation between health and social services in the delivery of mental health services. Our recent Green Paper will monitor the progress of Health Authorities in developing proper mental health care plans.

HEALTH OF THE NATION

A modern health service is not just about treating illness, it is also about keeping people healthy. This is why we launched the Health of the Nation strategy in 1992 — the first time England has had a strategy for health. Its aim is to reduce illness and premature death by identify ing common causes of ill health, lik excessive smoking and obesity. Dif-ferent groups in and outside the health service then work together to tackle the

We are already seeing progress. Between 1990 and 1994, deaths from coronary heart disease among the over 65s, the suicide rate, and the number o teenage pregnancies fell substantially environmental targets would be added

Improved general health means fewer people requiring attention in hospitals and GP surgeries — and more resources to be spent on helping patients. Our Health of the Nation strategy is a vital part of our vision of creating a health

A MODERN HEALTH SERVICE

Healthcare is changing fast. Modern technology is constantly increasing the range of treatments which are available. range of treatments which are ava Conservatives believe that the benefits of these advances should be made available to patients on the basis of their clinical need, without regard to their

Furthermore we also believe that the NHS must have access to sufficient resources to allow it to invest in the facilities required to deliver up-to-date healthcare. Since 1979 capital investment in the NHS has proceeded at an unprecedented rate. In the future we believe these requirements will be best met in a partnership with the private sector which allows the private sector to improve the facilities in which NHS healthcare is delivered. We will promote the Private Finance Initiative which will unleash a new flow of investment funds into the modernisation of the NHS.

The NHS is a British success story. It ommands universal support in Britain. It is widely admired all over the world. Conservatives are proud of the part we playing in improving it still further.

6 BETTER PUBLIC SERVICES

The public sector is being transformed the world over. Britain is in the vanguard. Everyone else wants to learn from our vision of a smaller state doing style public services were centrally planned with little information or choice for the public who used the service. Our reforms have made these services more responsive to the public by breaking up cumbersome bureaucratic structures and shifting power to small responsive local institutions and the people who work in them. The schools, hospitals and police have all been transformed in this way. We support the people who do, not the people who plan.

In order to get better standards we are liberating services from centralised control over capital. We will push forward our Private Finance Initiative to break down these old barriers.

We have made public services genu-inely accountable, with useful informa-tion and real choices for the people who use them. We set tough standards and they will get tougher. The Citizen's Charter has raised standards of customer service. When these high standards are reached we recognise and reward excellence through our Chaner Mark initiative. There are now 647 : Chartermarks and we will aim for more than 2,000 Chartermarks by the year 2000. We will require all government

agencies to apply for Chartermarks. The days of the bureaucratic paperchase are behind us. The future is "government direct". We will harness the latest information latest information technology to place the public sector directly at the service of the citizen. People will be able to use simple computer terminals to. enter information directly. This will transform time-consuming transactions like completing a tax return or register-

PRIVATISATION AND ... COMPETITION

In 20 years, privatisation has gone from the dream of a few Conservative visionaries to the big idea which is transforming decaying public sector industries in almost every country in the world. Britain has led the way with this new industrial revolution; we can be proud of what we have achieved.

In 1979 the Government inherited a range of businesses which had come into the public sector for different reasons. Many were known for their poor standards of service, and most were

making large losses. Over the past 18 years that situation has changed substantially. Privatisation has enhanced productivity, improve customer services, raised safety and en-vironmental standards and substantially reduced prices. Telephone, gas and electricity bills to the customer have fallen as never before. Telephone walling lists are unknown, and water, gas and electricity disconnections have fa-lien dramatically. Nearly £40 billion in private-sector funding has been committed to a major investment programme to meet higher quality water standards. Ve can now look forward to water prices

falling over the years ahead.

Service standards have improved substantially. Before privatisation published service standards did not exist. Now industry regulators monitor legal requirements to provide quality services in a competitive environment. Refunds may be made when performance stan-

dards are not met.
Privatisation has benefited — and will continue to benefit - consumers, shareholders, employees, and tax-payers. In 1979 the then-nationalised industries required a £50-million per week subsidy from the taxpayer. In 1995 those now privatised companies paid taxes of £60 million per week.

competition and regulation continue to deliver lower prices and better services We will extend competition for domes tic gas users, and introduce competition

We will ensure private ownership,

in the water industry, starting with large The Post Office occupies an important part in national life. It comprise Counter Services, the Royal Mail and Parcelforce, The network of sub-post offices is vital and most are already run as private businesses. The Royal Mail provides a universal service at a tandard price in every part of the United Kingdom. No one can imagine a stamp that does not bear the Queen's head. These characteristics must continue, but reforms are needed to allow the services to develop. The Royal Mail must face up to the challenges and opportunities that are arisingfrom increasing competition and the international liberalisation of

We will guarantee to preserve the national identity, universal service and distinctive characteristics of the Royal Mail, while considering options — including different forms of privatisation — to introduce private capital and management skills into its operations. We will transfer Parcelforce to the private sector whilst ensuring that every-post office in the land continues to provide a full parcel service at an

economical price. Privatisation works. We will therefore continue to pass government activities into private ownership where this can bring benefits to consumers and taxpayers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We are developing a new vision for local government.

We helieve local government should take a lend in the planning and development of their communities. To achieve that, we have encouraged them to work in partnership with central government, with private enterprise, I. and other organisations in their com-

munity. The impact of local government is multiplied when they work in this way.

To encourage this partnership, we have developed the new approach of Challenge Funding. We set up a fund to meet a particular objective and then invite competing bids for the money. Those who form effective partnership are far more likely to win those bids. The Single Regeneration Budget Fund. for example, has stimulated many working partnerships that are bringing new life to their communities. This innovation,

has the potential to transform the financing of the public sector. We will push Challenge Funding further to reward effective local government. In addition, we are encouraging higher standards and more cost-effective. provision of local services. Local authorities can enable things to happen rather than necessarily running themselves. They must look after the interests of users of their services — and that is often best done by being a purchaser."

not an employer.
Standards of service are rising in many local authorities. There are. however, still great disparities between; the best and worst performers, as the Audit Commission shows in their thought-provoking reports. We will keep

and the same and grown that the product of the course we have an experience of the confidence of the c

Continued from prefious page up the pressure for hither standards and improved value for money by insisting on compulsity competitive rendering.

The development of Challenge Funding and the shift in the role of local authorities from direct employers to purchasers of service will transform local authorities over the coming years. in the meantime we will, for so long as is necessary, retain the power to cap local authorities to protect inxpayers.

STRIKES IN ESSEVITIAL SERVICES

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Industrial relations in this country have been transformed. I replay as there is a still a problem it is openirated in a few essential services where the public has no easy alternative and strikers are able to impose massive posts and inconvenience out of all projection to the issues.

We will protect ordinary members of the public from this atuse of power.

We will legislate to remove legal immunity from industrial action which has disproportionale or excessive effect. Members of the public and employers will be able to seek injunctions to prevent industria action in these circumstances. Aly strike action will also have to appared by a majority of all members eligible to vote and ballots will have to be repeated at regular intervals if negociations are extended.

TRANSPORT

Our railways are already improving any they have ben liberated into the private sector. Pissenger numbers are up: more people are using the railways every day. Investment is up: Railtrack plans to spend 4 million each day on more status and maintaining improving status and maintaining and renewing the network. The new train operators are committed to investing £1.5 billion in new and refurbished

rolling stock.

And key fare are falling in real terms for the first tire in a generation, with guaranteed pre controls keeping fare increases below the level of inflation until at least 2013. We intend to build on this growing success story to creates thriving railway network for the new

century.

We will complete the successful transfer of British kall into the commercial

We now want to draw in private investment o modernise London Underground and improve services to

We will ring forward plans to privatise Lodon Underground. Pro-ceeds from pivatisation will be recycled in order to modernise the network within five years — creating an under-ground system to serve the capital in the 21st century. We will regulate fares so they rise by jo more than inflation for at least four years after privatisation. We

will also project services — including the Travel Cardand concessionary fares.

After completing the modernisation of the network the majority of the remaining surplusifrom privatisation will be channelled into additional support for transport livestment in London and elsewhere it the country.

We will ontinue to encourage public transport. In particular, we will use the existing furling for local authorities to promote divelopments which make it easter to transfer from rail to bus.

We recognise the needs of road users, and will postitue to work with the private agtor to sustain our road-building ald maintenance programme. Already inder the Private Finance Initiative to private sector is contributing some El billion to investment ids and chieving significant savings in construition costs.

We will uso tackle road congestion by introducing new regional traffic control centres, by extending the use of variable speed limis, and by ensuring that local authoritie have the necessary powers to act. We will promote a cleaner environment by supporting a Europe-wide reduction in vehicle emissions, and encouraging the manufacture of more

We wil continue to build on our record of improving salety on roll-on roll-off ferries and cargo ships through higher sendards of survivability and the measures in the Merchant Shipping

We will continue to make it easier for people to ravel by air. Already over the last five stars opening up the market in Europe las led to more services and lower fales. We will build on that success it negotiations with the United States and other countries. We will also continueto encourage the development of regional airports offering new direct services o the rest of the world in the same way that we have already opened up new legional links with Europe and the United States. We will privatise the National Air Traffic System because it will be run better in the private

Compitition and enterprise are the best way to improve our transport

SAFE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

OUR RECORD

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■ Spending on the police has doubled since 1999 after allowing for inflation. There are now about 16,000 more police officers han when we took office 2,360 more constables have been recruited since the last election and the Government is giving Chief Officers the resources to recruit 5,000 extra police constables over he next three years. Recorded crime has dropped in each of the last four years. It is now over 10 per cent down on 1992 levels - more than half a million fewer offences — the biggest drop since records were first

There are now 153,000 neighbourhood watch schenes in England and Wales - 38,000 more than in 1992 -covering 5.5 million homes. We have helped fund over 4,000 closed-circuit TV schemes over the last two years for additional security.

Our national DVA database - the first in the world - now has over 112,000 samples or it. 3,300 matches have so far been made between suspects and crime stains.

The Government has increased the maximum penalty for taking a gun to a crime and for attempted rape to life imprisonment. Since 1985 the average sentence for violence against the person has tisen by a third and for sexual

offences by nearly 40 per cent. The numer of cars stolen has fallen by nearly 20 per cen in the last four years - that is about 100.000 fewer cars

We have built 22 new prisons since 1980. Stopping out las ended. No prisoners now sleep three to a cell designed for one. Prism escapes have fallen by 80 per cent since the last

7 %

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those aged 16 and over. Mandatory drug teting has been

introduced throughout the Prison Service. Home leave has been cut back down half in two years. ■ We have made witness intimidation a crime. 500 people were charged with

that offence in 1995 alone. We have stepped up the light against drugs and organised crime, giving the Security Service powers to support the police and Customs and Excise in tracking down the serious criminals.

7 LAW, ORDER AND SECURITY

People have a right to sleep safely in their homes and walk safely on the streets. Governments have a duty to naintain that security.

Our reforms are aimed at ensuring that crime does not pay. And they are working — the pessimists and the scoffers are wrong. Recorded crime has fallen every year for the last four years. It is now 10 per cent lower than it was in 1992. That is over half a million fewer crimes — the biggest drop since records were first kept in the middle of the 19th

But crime is still too high. We must do more. Our aim is to keep crime falling over the lifetime of the next parliament. This is what we will do.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

Anti-social behaviour and petty crime disrupt communities and spread human misery. The police are rightly now vigorously tackling problems such as graffiti, vandalism and drunkenness. Where such behaviour goes unchecked more serious crimes will follow.

We will support chief constables who develop local schemes to crack down on peny crime and improve public order.

Closed-circult television has proved enormously successful in increasing

public safety.

We will fulfil the Prime Minister's pledge to support the installation of 10,000 CCTV cameras in town centres and public places in the 3 years to 1999, We will provide £75 million over the lifetime of the next parliament to continue extending CCTV to town centres, villages and housing estates up and down the country that want to bid

We will also continue to take our steps to improve the safety of our streets and communities. In this parliament we have given the police power to seize alcohol from under 18s caught drinking in public. The police have been given the power to stop and search in a specified area for up to 48 hours if they reasonably believe people to be carrying knives. identity cards can also make a

contribution to safer communities. We will introduce a voluntary identity

based on the new photographic driv-ing licence. It will, for example, enable retailers to identify youngsters trying to buy alcohol and cigarettes or rent classified videos when they are under

TACKLING JUVENILE CRIME

A flifth of all crime is committed by under-i8s. We are encouraging schools to reduce truancy through the publication of league tables and by supporting local projects to tackle the problem. We are developing a network of local teams to identify children who are at risk of turning to crime and to take early steps to address the factors which put them at

· We will encourage these local child crime teams to refer children from primary school age upwards who are at THE OL OF HE grammes to tackle their behaviour and fully involve their parents.

order - a Parental Control Order - on the parents of children whom they ved could keep control of their children but were refusing to do so.

Courts will be given the power to attach conditions to Parental Control Orders. Conditions might include a requirement to keep their children in at night, taking their children to and from school, attending a drug rehabilitation clinic or going to sessions to improve their skills as parents. Parents who breached these conditions - in defiance of the court - would face a range of possible sanctions.

Appearing before a youth court should be a daunting experience for the juvenile concerned. All too often it is not At the moment about a third of all juveniles appearing before the youth courts are discharged without any punishment at all. This sends all the

wrong signals to youngsters — particularly first-time offenders — who then feel they can get away with crime. We will give the courts the power to impose speedy sanctions on youngsters involving wherever possible an elemen of reparation to the victim. The proba tion service - rather than social services

 will be responsible for enforcing community punishments for under-los. Persistent juvenile offenders need to be properly punished. We are piloting a tough new regime, with a heavy emphasis on discipline, at a young offender institution and at the military prison in Colchester. In 1994 we doubled the maximum sentence for 15 to 17-yearolds to two years detention in a young offenders institution. We have given the courts the freedom to allow the publica-tion of the names of convicted juveniles. We will give the courts the power to demin persistent 12 to 14-year-old offenders in secure training centres once the places become available.

We have given the courts the power to impose electronically monitored curiews on 10 to 15-year-old offenders. We will introduce pilots to test their effective ness. If successful we will consider extending them nationwide.

CATCHING, CONVICTING

AND PUNISHING We back the police every inch of the way. There are now about to,000 more police officers - and over 18,000 more civilians beloing them - than when we took office. We are providing chief constables with the resources to recruit 5,000 extra police constables in the three years to

We support police initiatives to target the hard core of persistent criminals. Intelligence is crucial for this. We will establish a national crime squad to provide an improved nationally or ordinated approach to organised crime.

Once caught, criminals must be convicted and then properly punished. The public need to be protected. We have reformed the right to silence, despite opposition from Labour. The number of suspects refusing to answer police questions has nearly halved as a result. We have piloted curfew orders for adult offenders. They have been shown to keep criminals indoors - curbing their freedom as a purushment — and keeping them out of trouble in the

We will extend electronically monitored curley orders nationwide for



Spreading the word: ministerial copies of the manifesto at the Central Office launch

Persistent offenders account for a high proportion of all crime. Prison works -only as a deterrent, but in keeping criminals off the street. Those sent to prison are less likely to re-offend on release than those given a community punishment. We will provide another

8.500 prison places by the year 2000. We will introduce minimum sentences for violent and persistent criminals to help protect the public more effectively, reversing Labour's wrecking amendments to our tough Crime Bill. Anyone convicted of a second serious sexual or violent crime. Ifke rape or armed robbery, will ger an automatic

Persistent house burglars and dealers in hard drugs will receive mandatory minimum prison seniences of

seven years respectively. We will restore honesty in sentencing by ensuring that criminals serve the

SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

early release.

Concern for the victim must be at the heart of our entire approach to the criminal justice system. We will continue to give strong backing to Victim

We will give courts in all cases the discretion to allow witnesses to give evidence anonymously if they believe them to be at risk from reprisal. We will also take action to allow a

judge to stop a defendant from personally questioning the victim in rape cases and other cases where the victim is narricularly vulnerable. Conservatives are on the side of the

Strengthening the fight against City

Crime that takes place through manipulation of financial accounts and markets is as serious as crime on the

The City's unchallenged position as Europe's most dynamic and successful financial centre owes a great deal to its reputation for honesty and fair dealing. We will help ensure that this reputation We will bring forward in the next

parliament a package of measures designed to modernise the current systems for dealing with City fraud.
This will include legislation to allow the Inland Revenue to pass confidential information to the police, the Serious Fraud Office and the financial regulators to assist in the investigation of uses involving serious financial fraud. We will also remove the remaining legaobstacles to the controlled exchange confidential information between the police and the regulators in this kind of

FASTER JUSTICE

Justice delayed is justice denied. It is wrong that people who are innecent should face an excessive wait before the start of their trial. The guilty need to be held to account for their actions promptly. And victims should be given the chance to draw a line under their experience as quickly as possible We are determined to speed up justice without diminishing the genuine rights of every citizen to a fair trial.

Last October the government set up a review of delays in the criminal justice system. It made a series of detailed recommendations. We see merit in those recommendations and will seek the views of interested parties. We believe that taken together they could dramatically speed up the prosecution process. bringing the guilty to justice and acquitting the innocent more quickly.

All defendants would appear in court the next working day after they were charged At least half of them would be convicted the next day compared with just 3 per cent at the moment. And the time taken to bring juveniles to court would be cut from ten weeks to a matter

CIVIL JUSTICE

The civil justice system of this country is a vital part of its competitive economy and has a high international reputation The commercial courts altract substantial litigation from all over the world, generating significant foreign earnings. We will seek to maintain the high standing of these courts.

We have greatly improved the service the civil courts provide for the aggrieved citizen. The simple procedure for small claims has been extended to claims up to E3,000. For large claims the county court now provides an efficient local service with specialised courts in many local specialised courts in many locations around the country, leaving the High Court to deal with the more

complex and difficult issues. We will push ahead with the major reforms now under way which will greatly speed up the process and improve the delivery of justice without imposing additional burdens on the

THE LEGAL PROFESSION

We will ensure that the framework in which the legal profession operates is responsive to the changing needs of our people and is one in which unjustified restrictions have no place. We have, for example, given most solicitors rights of audience in the higher courts under

LEGAL AID

People are rightly concerned about the rising costs of legal aid. We have taken many steps to control the burden and to deny access to legal aid to the "appar ently wealthy" - those who qualified technically, but whose lifestyles suggested they should not.

But more is required: we will change the structure of legal aid to ensure that it like other vital public services. functions within defined cash limits.

This will enable us to identify prior ities and serve them much more efficiently than the present system.

Drugs are a menace to the very labric of our society. They ruin the life of addicts and their families. They can destroy whole neighbourhoods. The promising youth of today can too easily become the sad dropouts of tomorrow, turning to crime and violence.

The Conservative Government has a comprehensive strategy, launched in 1905, committed to lighting drugs in communities and in schools. It is tough on criminals and vigilant at our ports. I s respected throughout the world.

We spend over £500 mullion every year in tackling all aspects of drug

We will cominue the fight against drugs through a co-ordinated approach being tough on pushers; reducing demand by educating young people tackling drug abuse at local level through Drug Action Teams; saying "No" to legalising drugs; and working with international agencies and foreign governments to resist the menace

This pernicious evil has to be fought by all of us.

THE NATION

spreading.

OUR RECORD Many of our old cities have been rejuvenated through a parinership of blic and private investment. The area of green belt has doubled

since 1974. ■ Water and air quality in the UK have improved significantly. ■ We are one of only a few nations on course to meet our commitment to return emissions of all greenhouse

gasses to 1990 levels by 2000.

The Lottery has been established as the most successful in the world raising E3 billion for good causes in a little over two years.

■ More support is now given to arts and heritage than at any time in our nation's history. We now provide nearly 20 per cent more for the arts than the last Lahour Government, over and above inflation. British talent was this year nomi-

nated for 30 Oscars. British music is again receiving international acclaim. The industry is worth £2.5 billion, more than shipbuilding or electric compo-nents: one in five CDs and records sold anywhere has a British connection.

There is record investment in our sports facilities. Already the Lottery has provided £480 million for sport, including the planned British Academy of Sport, English National Stadium and for the first time direct funding for

We have continued to stand up for British interests in Europe, protecting our opt-out of the Social Chapter, maintaining our border controls, and preserving our Budget rebate - worth £18 billion since it was introduced. We have the most professional Armed Forces in the world. We have

modernised our nuclear deterrent by

THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO LIVE

Britain is admired the world over. Every year, millions of tourists travel here to enioy our heritage and culture, our cities and countryside, our way of life. Our nation's history is an anchor in a sea of change. We need to protect, cherish and build upon what is great about our country, so our children grow up in a better Britain. We also must make sure that everyone, wherever they live, has the support of a strong, tolerant and civilised community.

Our aim is for this generation and

luture generations to take pride in Britain as the best place in the world to

BRITAIN'S CITIES

London is one of the world's greatest cities, It is livelier than ever. Our vision of its future is set out in a separate

Many of our cities have undergone a complete transformation over the last decade. We have promoted partnerships - through schemes such as Urban Development Corporation, the Single Regeneration Budget and City Pride to antract private enterprise and invest-ment back to inner chies. These initiatives are bringing hope, opportunity, and prosperity to what were once wastelands of urban decline.

As the country thrives and becomes

more prosperous, one of our central tasks is to apply the same approach to fransform the legacy of soulless, decay-ing public housing estates. They are places that suffer from the very worst kind of poverty — poverty of aspiration. We have already made a start spending over E2 billion over the last ten years on improving 500 of the worst estates. And we have shown how it is possible to tackle the economic and ocial problems alongside new investment in buildings — where possible, bringing in a greater mix of public tenants and private housing to recreate a more balanced community. Now we will extend thus approach, focusing the Single Regeneration Budget to faunch a ment and under-schievement, and developing the Government's partnership with the private sector to help fund

eauired. Over the next decade, we aim to raise some £25 billion of new private investment in housing estates by encouraging tenants in more than half of the remaining public sector housing stock to opt for transferring their homes to new andlords. These transfers will only occur where tenants choose this route to improve their estates.

the massive investment that will be

We will use this approach to regenerate the worst housing estates and transform the lives of those who live on them - targeting support for programmes to improve education standards. employment and crime prevention alongside new private sector investment. As well as this attack on poor housing, we will continue to help the homeless. We will carry through our nlanned extension of the Rough Sleeper Initiative from London to other big cities. We will provide sufficient hostel places to ensure that no one needs sleep out on the streets

RURAL COMMUNITIES Britain is blessed with some of the most | creed, has the right to go about his or her

beautiful countryside in Europe. We need to protect the best of countryside whilst ensuring good jobs, and living conditions for people who live there. We have to strike a balance our rural communities must not become rural museums, but remain vibrant places to five and work. We will make sure

to ensure that balance is kept. We will continue to protect the green belt from development making sure that derelict and under-used urban land is developed in preference to greenfield

government departments work together

We will use the planning system to ensure that more new homes are built on reclaimed sites in our towns and cities. We will aim for more than 60 per cent of all new homes to be built on derelict sites.

This will reduce the pressure to build in our countryside and expand choice where it is needed most. We will support our rural commu-

nities, by giving special rate support to small village shops and post offices. The planning system can do more to help We will introduce a new Rural Business Use Class to encourage job

creation in the countryside. We will increase support for schemes which promote care for the country-side

like Country-side Stewardship. We believe participation in traditional country pursuits, including fishing, is a matter for individuals. A Conservative government will not introduce legisla-tion that interferes with the rights of people to take part in these activities. We will also encourage managed

public access to private land - in agreement with larmers and landowners — but strongly resist a general right to roam, which would damage the countryside and violate the right to private property.
We aim to double Britain's forest cover over the next 50 years. We will continue to encourage tree planting by

targeting grants, encouraging invest-ment in wood processing, and using new freedoms with the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

We will continue to provide robust support to the British beef industry support to the British bees including through the BSE crisis until its long-term strength is restored. We will vigorously pursue the eradication of BSE in the United Kingdom, as we have been doing successfully for the last eight years. We will spare no efforts in our fight against the unwarranted ban on British beef exports.

Public health and food safety have been the Government's top priorities throughout the BSE crises.

We will tighten up control over food safety by appointing a powerful and independent Chief Food Safety Adviser and Food Safety Council to advise

We will continue to push for fun-damental reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, moving away from production support to measures that will give our farmers the opportunity to compete while safeguarding the rural environment. We will ensure that no change to the Common Agriculture Policy unfairly disadvantages British

Fishing is a vital industry in many parts of coastal Britain. We will continue our fight to secure a prosperous longfuture for the industry and sustainable management of our lish

stocks. We will insist at the IGC and elsewhere on measures to stop quot hopping and prevent the vessels of other countries from using UK fishing quotas The integrity of our 6 and 12 mile fishing limits is not negotiable. We reject any idea of a single European fishing

We helieve that fishermen should have more say in decisions affecting their industry. We will press the European Commission to establish regional comminees to give fishermen direct influence in fishing policy. We will use these committees to develop new ways of managing quota and regulating fisheries which are more sensitive to the

ANIMAL WELFARE

A civilised society respects its animals Britain will continue to take the lead in improving standards of animal welfare in Europe. In 1995 we secured a major breakthrough in the treatment of anivictory in our campaign to bun veal crates throughout the EU. We are determined that standards should continue to rise and that all EU countries should have to meet them.

We will seek to ensure that all European countries have to raise animal welfare standards. We are not going to take any risks with rubies. There may however be ways other than quarantine which maintain or increase protection for public health. While improving the welfare of pets and reducing the costs to

Paper on rabies protection, setting out all the options including the existing

controls, early in the new parliament. BRITAIN'S ENVIRONMENT

Britain has an enviable track record in protecting our environment. Our rivers. beaches and water are cleaner and we are using our chergy more efficiently. ading the world in reducing the level of the "greenhouse gases" that cause global warming and pressing for policies that will enable the world to sustain development without long-term damage to the environment. Our Green

Manifesto is published separately.
We have clear objectives to build on this record. We will set tough, but affordable targets, with published environmental strategies to improve air quality and banish city smog - with ghter standards on vehicle emissions and pollution crackdowns around the country. We aim for sustained improvements in water quality, at a pace which industry and consumers can afford. We will develop labelling of products that gives consumers information to show the environmental impact of how they

In addition, we will continue to use the tax system and other incentives to encourage the use of vehicles and fuel which do not pollute the environment And, we will continue to explore policies based on the principle of polluter pays: those who contaminate land, pollute the environment or produce harmful waste should be made responsible for their actions and pay for the consequences.

BRITAIN - A TOLERANT COUNTRY

Tolerance, civility and respect have always been hallmarks of our nation. It is thanks to them that we have an excellent record on race relations Everybody, regardless of colour or

life free from the threat of intimidation. We are taking tough action to tackle harassment. Under proposals in the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, it will be a crame to behave in a way which causes someone else to be harassed. The maximum penalty will be six months in

Firm, but fair, immigration controls underpin good race relations. We will ensure that, while genuine asylum seekers are treated sympathetically. people do not abuse these provisions to avoid normal immigration controls.

A WORLD LEADER OF SPORTS. ARTS AND CULTURE

Britain is enjoying a cultural renaissance. British music, films, television. fashion, art and food are winning plaudits the world over. They add excitement, fun and enjoyment to our lives. Our success brings pride to

The National Lottery, which John Major set up, will pump billions of pounds into Britain's good causes. Its proceeds will weave a new, rich thread of opportunity and charity into the tapestry of British life. In addition to benefiting major national institutions, about half of the awards are for amounts under £25.000 — benefiting local communities up and down the country. We will encourage new ways of distributing awards to support the performing arts — through support for amaleur productions and community events, providing more musical in-struments, and helping productions tour

round the country.

The National Lonery will also help us train and promote British sporting talont. The English National Studium and British Academy of Sport, funded by the Lintery, will be new focal points for sporting events and excellence. We will encourage more young people play sport, by ensuring every school plays a minimum level of sport, including competitive sports, and developing a network of Sporting Ambassadors — sporting celebrities who will visit schools to inspire young people. We also encourage the Sports Council to use Lottery money to employ over 1,000 additional community sports coaches to

assist in primary schools. The development of young talent is

important in all fields. We will encourage the use of Lottery money to train young athletes and artists with revenue funding for bur-saries, concessionary tickets to professional performances and support for young people's organisations and productions.

The Lottery will also fund our millennium celebrations. They will be inspira-tional as well as enjoyable. We want these be a showcase of British excellence. Britain will be able to look back on past forward with confidence.

I EUROPE AND THE WORLD

Britain is a world leader as well as a European nation, Our economic strength, our history and our language make us a global trading nation with links right around the world. Only the United Kingdom is a member of the European Union, the United Nations Security Council, the Commonwealth Nato and the Group of Seven lending industrial nations. In the Gulf, Bosnia, Cyprus and Northern Iraq, John Major nas shown how our nation can contrib

ute to world neace. We will continue to work with international partners to secure peace and stability in areas of tension such as former Yugoslavia; in Kashmir; in Cyprus; and in the Middle East. We will promote reform of the United Nations to make it a more effective organisation for securing international stability. Britain will continue to deploy our outstanding Armed Forces as peacekeepers under the United Nations. And we will support the aspirations of the Poles, Czechs, Hungarians and others to join the

European Union and Nato. After the transfer of Hong Kong, we will work under the terms of the Joint Declaration to help sustain the prosper-ity and way of life of the people of Hong British interests that will remain.

Commonwealth, our unique global network, to encourage the sprend of democracy, as set out in the Harare Declaration. We will focus our aid programme to encourage sustainable development in countries that are growing towards self-sufficiency under democratic government. We have taken the lead in alleviating the burden of debt for the world's poorest countries. We also have significant flows of private investment to developing economies. We are more than achieving the long term UN target of 1 per cent of GDP for the transfer of wealth to less developed countries. We will continue to maintain a significant bilateral and multilateral aid programme reflecting the aspiration of meeting the UN's target of 0.7 per cent

of GDP for aid as a long-term objective.

We will also continue to provide leadership in Europe and internation ally on environmental issues, building on the Rio Conference to encourage sustainable development - meeting our commitment to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 10 per cent on 1990 levels by 2010 to prevent climate change. The Prime Minister has committed himself to attending the next UN

BRITAIN AND THE EUROPEAN

We believe that in an uncertain, competitive world, the nation state is a rock of security. A nation's common heritage. culture, values and outlook are a precious source of stability. Nationhood gives people a sense of belonging.

The Government has a positive vision for the European Union as a partnership of nations. We want to be in Europe but not run by Europe. We have much to gain from our membership of the European Union - in trade, in cooperation between governments, and in preserving European peace. We benefit from the huge trade opportunities that have opened up since Britain led the way in developing Europe's single market. We want to see the rest of Europe follow the same deregulated, enterprise policies that have transformed our economic prospects in Britain.

However, in June, the nations of the European Union will gather in Amsterdain to negotiate possible amendments to the Treaty of Rome. It is a moment of truth, setting the direction in which the European Union will go. It will also be crucial in ensuring that we have a relationship with the rest of Europe with

which we can be comfortable. A Conservative government will seek partnership of nation states. Some others would like to build a federal Europe. A British Conservative

Continued on next page

■ Referendum guarantee on single currency ■ Accountable government ■ Preserving the union

Continued from previous page government will not allow Britain to be part of a federal European state.

The diversity of Europe's nations is its strength. As more nations join the European Union, it needs to become flexible not more rigid. We must also ensure that any developments which only include some members do not work to the disadvantage of others.

Our priorities for Europe's development will be enlargement of the Community, completion of the single market, reform of the European Court of Justice, and further strengthening of the role of national parliaments.

We will seek more co-operation between national governments on areas of common interest — defence, foreign policy and the light against inter-national crime and drugs. We also believe the European Union itself should do less, but do it better. So we have proposed incorporating the principle of subsidiarity — that the European Union should only do that which cannot be done by member states acting

- into the treaty. This is how we are approaching the Inter-Governmental Conference.

will argue for a flexible Europe which fully accommodates the interests and aspirations of all its member states and where any new proposals have to be open to all and agreed by all. We will not accept other changes to the Treaty that would further centralise decision-making, reduce national sovereignty, or remove our right to permanent opt-outs.

We will retain Britain's veto and oppose further extension of qualified majority voting in order to ensure we can prevent policies that would be harmful to the national interest. We will defend the rights of national parliaments and oppose more powers being given to the European Parliament at the expense of national parliaments.
We will take whatever steps are

necessary to keep our frontier controls. We will resist attempts to change the inter-governmental nature of co-operation in Justice and Home Affairs. We will not accept the development of new legal rights that extend the concept of European Citizenship. Britain's rebate has so far saved British taxpayers £18 billion and we will protect it.
One of the greatest challenges Europe

faces is to cut unemployment and make its businesses competitive. Here Britain is leading the way. We will continue to argue for deregulation and lower costs on Europe's businesses, the policies that have helped give Britain one of the nies in Europe. We will not put that achievement at risk by signing up to the social chapter, which would open the door to imposing the high costs of the European social model cepted the social chapter we could not stop many of these damaging policies being imposed on us by qualified majority voting.
We will insist that any new treaty

recognises that our opt-out from the social chapter enables Britain to be exempt from the working time directive, and prevents any abuse of our opt-out. And, we will not accept a new employ ment chapter in any revised treaty, which would expose British businesses to new costs.

We made it clear in the previous chapter that we will continue to work for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, and the lifting of the worldwide ban on British beef, and insist on measures, to stop quota nopping by foreign fishing vessels

Protecting Britain's interests demands ough, experienced negotiation. John Misjor has proved he has these qualities including the resolve to say no when isolated. Labour have said they would never want Britain to be isolated in Europe: they would damage Britain's success by undermining our veto, sign-ing up to the social chapter and following in others' footsteps - even where they lead in the wrong direction.

They support policies that would fragment the United Kingdom's influence within a Europe of regions. The Liberal Democrats welcome the end of the nation state.

Only the Conservatives can be trusted to stand up for Britain in Europe: our national interest must be protected

A SINGLE CURRENCY: OUR REFERENDUM GUARANTEE

The creation of a European single currency would be of enormous significance for all European states whether they are members or not. We must take account of all the consequences for Britain of such a major development of policy. John Major secured for us at Maastricht an opt-out from the commitment to enter a single currency. It is only because of this opt-out that we have the right to negotiate and then decide whether it is in Britain's interest to join.

It is in our national interest to take part in the negotiations. Not to do so rould be an abdication of responsibility. A single currency would affect us whether we were in or out. We need to participate in discussions in order to ensure the rules are not fixed against our interests. The national interest is not served by exercising our option — one way or the other — before we have to.

For a single currency to come into effect, European economies will have to meet crucial criteria. On the information currently available, we believe that it is very unlikely that there will be sufficient convergence of economic conditions across Europe for a single currency to



Cabinet Ministers, left to right, Michael Howard, Malcolm Rifkind and Kenneth Clarke, listening to John Major at the launch of the Conservative manifesto yesterday

proceed safely on the target date of lanuary 1, 1999. We will not include legislation on the single currency in the first Queen's Speech. If it cannot proceed safely, we believe it would be better for Europe to delay any introduction of a single currency rather than rush ahead to meet an artificial timetable. We will argue this case in the negotiations that

We believe it is in our national interest to keep our options open to take a decision on a single currency when all the facts are before us. If a single currency is created, without sustainable convergence, a British Conservative

If, during the course of the next parilament, a Conservative government were to conclude that it was in our national interest to join a single currency, we have given a guarantee that no decision would be implemented unless the British people gave their express approval in a referendum.

DEFENCE IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD The old rivairies of the Cold War have been replaced by new tensions. Britain

must be able to react rapidly to protect

our security and interests around the Our Armed Forces are the most professional in the world. We have cut unnecessary bureaucracy and increased efficiency, and directed money to sup-port our services in the frontline. We have made the changes necessary to adapt our services to the threats which defence plans based on stable levels of funding. There is no need for a defence

review, which would raise fear and

uncertainty about the future. We will continue to ensure the Services have the modern weapons they need to guarantee their superiority against potential aggressors. We will make sure we can conduct military operations throughout the world, and develop our capability to deploy the three services together and rapidly, including the ability to transport heavy equipment into an operational zone. We will take part in ballistic missile research so we can decide whether we ould procure any such system for the

United Kingdom.
We will continue to target our efforts on recruiting for the Armed Forces. We will set up an Army Foundation College, which will provide 1,300 places for 16 and 17-year-olds who want to join the Army. We will also enable the reserve forces to play a more active role in

including resources to encourage their

our security. We will resist attempts to bring the Western European Union

that to the strength and stability of our traditions that bind us together as a nation. Our constitution has been stable.

not revolution.

accountability, and introduced reforms to make Parliament work more effthat we are committed to continue.

In recent years we have taken significant steps to open up government to public scrutiny, and give individuals more information to hold government and public services to account.

information on the workings of govern-

The Labour Party manifesto will be published in full in tomorrow's Times

cadet forces, and our current plans

We will continue to support Britain's defence industry, and we will work with companies to identify the technologies of

Nato will remain the cornerstone of Union, and ensure that defence policy remains a matter for sovereign nations.

IN THE CONSTITUTION

Alone in Europe, the history of the United Kingdom has been one of stability and security. We owe much of constitution - the institutions, laws and but not static. It has been woven over the centuries - the product of hundreds of years of knowledge, experience and

Radical changes that alter the whole character of our constitutional balance could unravel what generations of our predecessors have created. To preserve that stability in future - and the freedoms and rights of our citizens - we need to continue a process of evolution,

Conservatives embrace evolutionary change that solves real problems and improves the way our constitution works. In recent years we have opened up government, devolved power and

OPEN, ACCOUNTABLE

We have introduced a code on access to government information, policed by the Ombudsman. We have published

ment previously held secret - including the composition of Cabinet Committees. and the structure of the Security and Intelligence Services. We have introduced a new Civil Service Code, and reformed the process for public appointments. We are pledged to legislate on the commitments in our 1993 White Paper on Open Government, including a statutory right of access by citizens to personal records held about them by the government and other public authori-ties. And we have set up the Nolan Committee and have implemented its proposals to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in public life.

that. We have transferred power from central bureaucracies to local organisstions such as achool governors and hospital trusts. We have introduced the Chizen's Charter. We have also required them to publish information on their performance - information which enibles the local community to keep a check on standards and apply pressure where needed.

Wherever possible, we are widening competition and choice in public services. We showed in Chapter 6 how we vished to push this agenda forward. Regional government would be a dangerously centralising measure —

taking power away from elected local authorities. We wish to go in the opposite direction, shifting power to the local neighbourhood - for example by giving more power to parish councils.

Parliament — alongside the Crown and our legal system — is one of the three key institutions that unhold our constitution. The supremacy of Parliament is fundamental to our democracy, and the guarantee of our freedoms. The last 17 years have seen many

changes to strengthen Parliament and make it more effective - the flourishing of select committees, new procedures to acrutinise European legislation, reform of Parliament's working day, and a budget that brings together tax and

We have therefore already done much to improve the way Parliament works and will do more. We have accepted the proposal from the Public Service Select Committee and put before the House of Commons a clear new statement of the principles underlying ministerial accountability to Parliament. All these developments have made Parliament open to the critizen, and the government more accountable. In the next session of Partiament we will continue this careful To give Parliament more time to

consider legislation thoroughly we will extend the Queen's Speech to cover not only legislation for the immediate year but also provisional plans for legislation in the year after that.

This will mean that more draft bills will be subject to public scrutiny before they reach the floor of the House of Commons. It will give Select Commit-

tees more time to take evidence and report. And this should also mean better legislation. We do not believe there is a case for more radical reform that would undermine the House of example, would risk transferring power away from parliament to legal courts undermining the democratic supremacy of parliament as representatives of the people. Whilst this may be a necessary check in other countries which depend upon more formalised written constitutions, we do not believe it is appropriate

Nor do we favour changes in the system of voting in parliamentary elections that would break the link between an individual member of parliament and his constituents, A would be more likely to produce unstable, coalition governments that are unable to provide effective leadership with crucial decisions being dependent behind closed doors. This is not the

We have demonstrated we are not against change where it is practical and beneficial. But fundamental changes which have not been fully thought through — such as opposition proposals on the House of Lords extremely damaging. We will oppose change for change's sake.

THE UNION

The Union between Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England underpins our nation's stability. The Conservative commitment to the United Kingdom does not mean ignoring the distinctive individuality of the different nations. On the contrary, we have gone further in recognising that diversity than any previous government. We are

the role of parliament at the centre of the Union, we have given new powers to the Scottish Grand Committee and Welsh Grand Committee - enabling Scottish and Welsh MPs to call Ministers to account and debate legislation which affects those countries — something that would be impossible with separate assemblies. For the first time, Welsh members of parliament can ask their questions to Ministers, in Welsh in Wales. Most recently we have similarly extended the basic powers of the Northern Ireland Grand Committee.

We believe this is the right way to go. create strains which could well pull apart the Union. That would create a new layer of government, which would be hungry for power. It would risk rivalry and conflict between these par-liaments or assemblies and the parliament at Westminster. And it would raise serious questions about whether the representation of Scottish and Welsh MPs at Westminster - and their role in matters affecting English affairs - could remain unchanged. Nor do we believe it would be in the interests of the Scottish or Welsh people. A Scottish tax-raising parliament, for example, could well affect the choice of where new invest-

ment locates in the United Kingdom. in a world where people want security, nothing would be more dangerous than to unravel a constitution t binds our nation together and the institutions that bring us stability. We will continue to fight for the strength

and diversity that benefits all of us as a proud union of nations. NORTHERN TRELAND

While we cherish the Infon and Northern Ireland's place within it, we recognise that there exist within the Province special circumstarces which require further action to be aken. -After a quarter of a centurywe wish to

see the unique and originally emporary system of direct rule ended and a successful restoration of local accountable democracy achieved. We want to see this brought about in a lirm which And we want to see the rights traditions and interests of all parts of the com-munity recognised within any such agreement. We will accordingly con-tinue to pursue a policy of dislogue and negotiation with and between the demotic Northern Ireland partis. We will continue to underpin such regotiations with the guarantee that the constitutional position of Norther Ireland cannot and will not be changed without the broad consent of the penole of Northern Ireland. At the same time we will continue to take whatever security measures are required to protect the people of Northern Ireland from those who seek to achieve their political goals by violent means.

We seek peace. But we will never be swayed by terrorist violence no will we ever compromise our principles with those who seek to overthrow the rule of law by force.

D.

A choice of two futures

AT THIS election the British people face a stark choice. A choice of two

They can elect to continue down the road of success and achievement. An opportunity that has been hard won by the efforts and sacrifices of the British people. An opportunity that has only come about because successive Conservative governments have been determined to face up to the long term problems facing Britain, and take the tough steps needed to arrest our slow decline.

Or they can elect to take a huge risk with that future - the future of themselves, their children, their nation - by handing over the government of the country to politicians who have fought, opposed and denigrated every step that has been taken to restore Britain semnomic health and standing in the world. Politicians whose own declared policies would burden the United Kingdom with new spending and taxation, new regulations, and new threats to the stability and sovereignty of the nation itself.

You can only be sure with the Conservative

A CHOICE OF TWO FUTURES - 25 PLEDGES FOR THE NATION

The Enterprise Centre of Europe

TAX AND SPENDING Keep tight control of public spending priorities, aiming for our target of a 20p basic rate of income tax over the next PRICES AND MORTGAGES Stick to

the policies which have delivered the lowest inflation levels and mortgage for a generation, meeting our inflation target of 2.5% or less.

JOBS Protect jobs by keeping Britain out of the European Social Chapter,

build on our record of falling unemployment and help get the long term unemployed back to work including by requiring those on benefit for some time to undertake work experience on a community project.

ENTERPRISE Support growth and investment by keeping Britain the lowest tax major economy in Europe, pursuing Britain™s global trade opportunities and curbing unnecessary regulations.

~<u>:</u> 5

SMALL BUSINESS Reform business rates to help small businesses. THE FUTURE Keep Britain ahead in the technology of the future, encouraging new entertainment and information services, and using the Millennium Lottery Fund to give

people access to new computers and

information links in schools, libraries,

Opportunity and Ownership for Individuals and Families

and other public places.

HELP FOR FAMILIES Give priority to reducing tax bills for families looking after dependent children or relatives by allowing one partner's unused personal allowance to be transferred to a working spouse where they have hese responsibilities.

HELP FOR CARERS Help family members with heavy responsibilities caring for a relative to take a much needed break through a new Respite Care Programme.

OWNERŠHIP Encourage schemes

that help employees build a nursery voucher scheme offering a shareholding in the company they work for, alongside tax benefits for other savings schemes.

PENSIONS Transform pensions by providing all young people entering the workforce with a personal pension fund paid for by a rebate on their national insurance contributions, while maintaining a state pension quarantee.

CARE IN OLD AGE Make it easier for people to afford the cost of care in old age without giving up their house and SCHOOL STANDARDS Guarantee

school standards by intervening directly to raise standards where schools or local education authorities are letting children down. SCHOOL CHOICE Widen choice and diversity in schools, with more freedom for schools to develop their

own character, more specialist

schools, and a grammar school in

every town where parents want that

choice. We will also maintain our

World Class Health and Public

NHS FUNDING PLEDGE Continue,

choice of places for parents of all 4

year by year, to increase the real resources committed to the NHS, so NHS spending will continue to share in a growing economy. FAMILY DOCTORS Enable all family

doctors to provide a wider range of services in their surgeries and in practice-based cottage hospitals offering faster and more local treat-

CITIZEN'S CHARTER Continue to improve the standards and value for money of Britain's public services. giving those who use them more information and, where possible, wider choice. ESSENTIAL SERVICES Introduce

measures to protect the public against strikes that cause excessive

disruption to essential services.

A Safe and Civil Society

PUBLIC SAFETY Support local police schemes to crack down on petty crime, and continue our funding for the installation of TV security cameras in town centres and public places that want them throughout the next parliament

JUVENILE CRIME Give the courts power to impose speedy sanctions on youngsters, including an element of reparation to the victim; and continue our war against drugs. PERSISTENT CRIMINALS Ensure

persistent house burglars and dealers in hard drugs receive mandatory minimum prison sentences.

A Confident, United and Sovereign

QUALITY OF LIFE Continue the renaissance of our towns and cities, in particular harnessing private cap-

ital to regenerate the worst public housing estates; continue to protect our countryside and heritage; and use the National Lothry to help promote British sports, arts and culture.

THE ENVIRONMENT Maintain our international leaderstip role in protecting the environment, and continue improving air and water quality at home alongsile effective conservation of our widlife.

THE NATION Maintain the unity of the United Kingdom and preserve the stability of the Nation through an evolutionary - rathel than revolutionary - approach to constitutional

EUROPE Seek a partnership of nation states in Europe, and not allow Britain to be part of a federal European state. THE POUND Guarantee that Britain

will not join a single currency in the next parliament unless the British people give their express approval in



The duke who pounded longest

Stella Tillyard on a reappraisal of a great Victorian who seemed to

be not one man but many

WELLINGTON

A Personal History

By Christopher Hibbert

HarperCollins, £20 LSBN 0 246 13815 7

work. Christopher Hibbert acknowledges that anyone attempting a new book on Wellington necessarily Sabours in the shadow of Elizabeth Longford's great two-volume life which appeared in 1969 and 1972. What he does not add is that his predecessor's work had a context hich has now vanished, the loss of which makes a new work an entirely different enterprise.

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When Longford wrote her Weilington, a sense of deliverance from the horrors of war in Europe was still tangible, memories of slaughder and sacrifice still fresh. Wellingtion's reputation, encapsulating the national ability to

triumph in and over adversity, and his character traits of severe austerity, painstaking practicality and the sacrifice of personal happi-

ness to the service of Sovereign and State were still living things. Damage or alter them and something in the nation's understanding of itself would be damaged and altered too. The reader may have had a sense that Longford loved her subject more as a military commander than as a statesman or politician, but he emerged unscathed, a hero whose gruff eccentricities reflected and had become part of the national character.

Thirty years on the biographer's landscape has new contours. In the first place as memories of world war fade, to does the importance of spast wars that formed the prethistory of the great conflicts of our own century. In consequence, the men who embodied those struggles and mumphs are fading too; sapped of the lifeblood of memory. They have become busts on plinths, metallic wiems of a bygone age.

In the second place - and not coincidentally — the parameters of national identity, of what it means to be British (or, more precisely, an Englishman) have recognisably shifted. In the mid-1960s the Britishness that Wellington seemed to embody was still prevalent. Loyal-

runs through all his recognised these attributes in themrecognised these attributes in themselves and in their nation. But Thatcherism's go-getting, essentially selfish philosophy of choice has chipped away at the idea that service and self-sacrifice are essential, good and British qualities, while feminism has demanded a demonstrative emotionality in men that would have seemed as shocking 30 years ago as it was to

Wellington himself. Thus it is that Hibbert's duke comes into a very different world from that of his predecessor. Wellington's public reputation is at stake only among a few high Anglican historians who regard him as a traitor for having pushed through Catholic

emancipation in 1829. He is an established figure in the national pantheon, but no longer a pattern for the nation. Wisely, then, Hib-

bert has decided to dwell relatively perfunctorily on Wellington's arts of generalship and statesmanship and to concentrate on the private

Not for nothing is Hibbert an admirer of Boswell. He has proved himself over a long career as a distinguished and popular historian to be a master portraitist of great men's private lives, and his Wellington is depicted in scores of captivating vignettes defity built into a convincing and satisfying picture. If Elizabeth Longford showed us two Wellingtons - the charismatic military leader and the less likeable politician - Hibbert brings us four. First comes Arthur Wesley, a

gauche, impecunious Irish schoolboy who joined the Army at 18, went out to India a colonel in 1796, and, after nine years and some help from his brother the Governor-General, came back Major-General Sir Arthur Wellesley, a military hero, a rich man and a confirmed womaniser. But his mature character was not yet established. The man who would later strike others as master of the telling aphorism often seemed jejune and pompous; the proud philistine who would



A sun-lit old age: in Franz Winterhalter's The First of May (1851). Wellington presents a gift to Queen Victoria's son, Prince Arthur

declare of poets that "there is no believing a word they say . . . I have the worst opinion of them" was the absorbed reader of such fictional concoctions as Illicit Love, Fashionable Involvements and Love at First

It was in the Peninsula and as victor of Waterloo that Major-General Wellesley was transformed into the Iron Duke of Wellington, a military commander whose genius was the capacity to take infinite pains with his army and infinite care in his planning. It

that this Wellington came home to his unhappy marriage — character-istically, he had undertaken it as a matter of honour - and perfected his persons as a man of bluff reserve who assuaged his loneli-ness with the attentions of a series of mistresses and female confidantes. He became the object of universal veneration and also of female longing, who was showered with money and titles, was written into novels and painted onto canvas. But Wellington fell rapidly from this eminence when he became Prime Minister in 1828.

The third Wellington Hibbert shows us is the strangely contradictory politician, the reactionary reformist. Wellington accepted the need for Catholic emancipation not as a right but as a way of avoiding civil war in his native Ireland; he declared that "the people are rotten to the core", but bowed to the inevitability of the Reform Act. For a while he garnered abuse and even hatred as a symbol of the old order that seemed to be passing. But in the last and most moving section of his book Hibbert brings us a fourth

popularity to move into a sun-lit old age in which his dislike of the people was swamped by their patriotic regard for him as a figure embodying the new national greatness. Over a million people attended his funeral. "One cannot ... think of England without him," wrote Queen Victoria. We can now, and we do, but Hibbert's excellent portrait reminds us of the losses as well as the gains of that separation.

Stella Tillyard's Citizen Lord is published this month by Chatto & Windus.

Story not song

Louise Doughty

BODIES OF WATER By Rosanne Cash ISBN 0 5 75 06451 X

COUNTRY music is widely regarded with humour in this counby - and it is often (erroneously) assumed that American singersongwriters of the genre have had any sense of self-irony surgically removed. Rosanne Cash's collection of stories confirms this prejudice, although at her best, Cash has an acute eye and a fair wit.

Bodies of Water is a series of autobiographical musings which all too often resort to metaphorical meandering. In The Arc of Loneliness: Deferred pain is the drug of choice - feeling seen in a mirror. framed by calculation and distance. Deferred pain is the heat that shapes the arc." Set to the right music and with a few beers inside you, this might conceivably be poeric. Read from the page when you are stone cold sober, it is meaningless drivel.

Idiosyncratic moments show that Cash is capable of a great deal more. A toddler licks the glitter off the low-hanging ornaments of a Christmas tree and the next day, when I changed her diaper, her poop was aglow with brilliant little flecks of silver and blue". Easily the best story is the simplest, called Dinner. A couple dine in New York with friends who break the news that they are going to have a baby. The nurrators of the other stories are not nearly as self-deprecating or as honest. Unlike in song, if a character in fiction wants to have a catharsis, it must first be earned.



Marthe's memorial

The first shock in this fascinat ing social documentary comes on its second page: the Princess Marthe Bibesco, star and beauty of the beau monde before the First World War, died as late as 1973, But she began young. Conceived in Paris, where her father was the Romanian Ambassador, she was born in Bucharest in 1886 and at the age of 15 was betrothed to the lamous aviator and philanderer George Bibesco, scion of one of Romania's few princely houses. It was an exotic world to our eyes -Marthe was descended from the Othello of whom Shakespeare wrote - and the country, a brand new monarchy only a few years out of the Ottoman Empire, was an uneasy Balkan mix, struggling to identify with the West.

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in due course, the princess became more at home in London and Paris than in Romania, whose sad, chaotic history threw her in and out of favour there (she is currently in, with a foundation

Duncan Fallowell

F ENCHANTRESS Marthe Bibesco and Her World By Christine Sutherland John Murray, 520

named after her). Success came fast, in Paris in 1908, on the publication of her first book at the

Her social apogee came after the First World War, when her hus-band gave her a derelict family property, a Venetian-Byzantine Bibesco palace of fantastic charm in the Romanian countryside, where she entertained many of the great players on the international scene. As a hostess she was grander and sexier than Cunard, Colefax. Morrell. Her intimates included Alfonso XIII and the son of the Kaiser. Amazingly, she was the great love of Ramsay MacDonald's later life, though probably never slept with him. Her final admirer

was Charles de Gaulle. Marthe enjoyed the trappings of glamour, was dressed by Poiret. Chanel, Lanvin, travelled on the Orient Express, stayed at all the Ritzes and had that delightful teasing candour of immodesty which is so un-English. Later in life she said: "The only thing I regret, when I look in the mirror and see the lines around my eyes, is that I can't any more give the same aesthetic pleasure to strangers ...

without really trying." But she had, too, the deeper glamour of a life touched by romance and tragedy, bound up as it was with the horrors of Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th century. Marthe was accused by Queen Marie of Romania after the



Marthe with her daughter, Valentine, on Valentine's wedding day

First World War of collaboration with the Germans, for having briefly lodged with the Thurn und Taxis family during it; and she also accepted hospitality from top Nazis

on the eve of the Second. Her story builds dramatically towards its end and moves into its defining, poignant context: the loss of her Romanian world first to the Nazis, then to the Communists. and her subsequent excoriation as "an enemy of the people". She escaped to Paris in the nick of time. After long machinations her daughter and son-in-law were released from prison to join her and - the improbabilities continue they set up home in Cornwall. A. L. Rowse was a neighbour there. "She was a great woman - such courage," he says. "She never complained and never spoke of the riches and grandeur she lost; she

adored life and was determined to maintain standards at all costs. I thought she was magnificent." In her final phase, the princess

found herself having to write more desperately than ever - to pay two grandsons' school fees among other things. It is a curiously subdued and noble ending to a life lived on the grandest stage. Christine Sutherland is a conscientious guide to its twisting course, and very good too on the often complex political background, though she over-aggressively takes Marthe's side in the long-running feud with Queen Marie. Also the account of the post-Second World War period is too rapid, fewer than 20 pages. I wanted to know much more about the last 25 years. What for example happened to the grandson who went to Australia and changed his name to "Moore"!

The distinguished American biologist Jared Diamond opens with a question posed to him some 25 years ago by Yali, a native from New Guinea, Yali asked: "Why have you white people got more cargo than we blacks?" The rest of the book seeks to answer Yali's question, and it amounts to the most absorbing account on offer of the emergence of a world divided between haves and have-

Why (to reduce the matter to its crudest terms) do whites rule the world? Is it because they simply are innately superior? There is not a shred of evidence - be it biological genetic or psychological - to support that hypothesis, Diamond contends. Rather in the lottery of life, whites (ie, Eurasians, or Caucasians) have had all the luck that is, all the environmental

Homo sapiens started off a hunter-gatherer. In time — in some places at about the end of the last ice Age (around 10,000 BC) population rise pressed on re-sources, and in the Fertile Crescent and some other spots, notably China, people began to be able to produce their own food. Agriculture meant settlement; it generated the surpluses which were necessary to support kings, bureaucrats, scribes, craftsmen, cities and armies.

Civilisation as we know it was thus founded upon new skills in growing crops and domesticating animals (for food, clothing, traction and as machines of war). Why did not peoples the world over become "civilised" in this way? Not because they were "backward". Diamond asserts, but because the Fertile Crescent almost uniquely possessed all the trump cards: native species of nutritious grain, which could be selectively bred into

Civilised or just plain lucky?

Roy Porter

GUNS, GERMS AND STEEL The Fates of Human Societies By Jared Diamond Cape, £18.99 ISBN 0-22-403809-5

wheat, barley and pulses, and wild versions of what became domesticated cattle, sheep, pigs, dogs and

Everywhere else, one or more of those favourable elements was missing. Evolving geologically separately, the Americas had never supported the right sort of large mammals to carry the burdens of

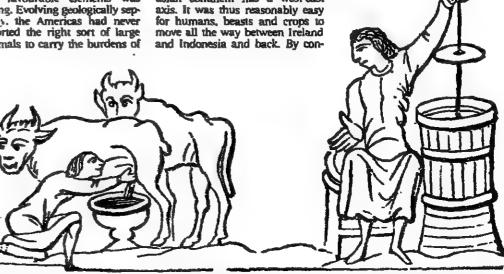
civilisation (llamas were localised. and you can do only so much with turkeys), while elsewhere, for instance, Australia, such creatures had been driven to extinction by early human beings.

And what of Africa? Africa has remarkably few native domesticable animals (you try taming a rhino, a hippo or even a zebra); some of the more easily cultivated parts of the continent - for example, the Cape - unjuckily possessed few native grains or trees that yielded abundant human food.

Even elementary geography helped the whites. The great Eurasian continent has a west-east axis. It was thus reasonably easy for humans, beasts and crops to move all the way between Ireland

trast, the Americas and Africa run north to south, presenting admost insurmountable climatic obstacles for food transfer with every barrd of latitude. And finally (some people have all the luck!) because Caucasians had evolved alongside large mammals, they became carriers of, while to some extent immune to. the great animal-originated diseases, such as smalipox, measies and flu. When Europeans fanned out on their colonial mission, it was their germs no less than their guns that felled natives who lacked any

The pieces of this answer to Yali's question are mainly well known. But they have never before been put together so coherently, with such a combination of expertise, charm and compassion.



First farmers: early milking and churning. Europe had an abundance of domesticable animals

Coyne's justice: certainly not a fair cop

FOR quite a while, the Europeanisation of Irish literature trumpeted by Dermot Bolger in the Picador Book of Contemporary Irish Fiction and viewed as marking a new maturity, seemed to reside almost solely in the person of Hugo Hamilton. To those who wished the Irish novel to go on the creative equivalent of an inter-rail journey. Hamilton - whose mother is German and whose first three

showed what could be achieved. What then are we to make of Hamilton's fourth novel, a tonguein-cheek detective story set wholly in Dublin and awash with references to Irish life? Has the Dublin

novels were set in Germany

writer become a Eurosceptic? What seems to have happened is that Hamilton appears to have let go and started to enjoy himself on the page. Previous critical opinion has always praised him for elegance, economy and exactitude, with underlying hints that the work has been somewhat humourless.

Antonia Logue

HEADBANGER By Hugo Hamilton Secker & Warburg, £1299 ISBN 0436304185

Headbanger is as surprising as if Nick Hornby had suddenly delivered a Proustian epic.

Hamilton's central character is Garda Pat Coyne, a kamikaze cop on a quest to instil justice in the souls of all Ireland, starting with Dublin's gangland bosses. He is consumed by his vision of a better world until he goes off the rails altogether by torching cars, kidnapping the bosses moll, and beating up his wife's art teacher. "Coyne's Justice", he calls his deeds, and with all the bloodyminded fervour of the extreme right wing he tumbles manically

through Dublin's underworld. Coyne is a majestic creation. A rigidly conservative and none-too-bright Garda has long been a staple of apocryphal pub stories. but with the exception of the village policeman in James Stephens's The Crock of Gold, and MacCruiskeen in Flann O'Brien's The Third Policeman, the thick cop has been on a long career break in Irish literature. Few who read The Last Shot or The Love Test would have

pegged Hamilton as the man to put him back on the beat. Conventional wisdom dictates

that writing about urban breakdown should be fraught with pietistic didacticism. Hamilton reiects this sermonising route and through an accretion of one-liners and humorous set-pieces he sketches a morally ambivalent world which is immensely compelling and engaging.

Hamilton took a tremendous risk in moving so dramatically from the territory he staked out in his previous three novels, but his

sion to his writing. Hamilton has discovered a real comic genius, and it is this, combined with the intelligence of his vision, which makes Headbanger such an impressive departure. If Flann O'Brien's Junatic Professor De Selby had genetically engineered a cross between the novels of Raymond Chandler and those of Patrick McCabe, this is what the progeny might well have looked like.

Antonia Logue's novel, Shadowbox, will be published by Bloomsbury next year.

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FLIGHTS

AIR Tickets Direct has a £278 excursion fare to Los Angeles allowing a stopover in New York. Details: 0990 320321.

■ DISCOUNTED Swiss Air fares to numerous destinations including Delhi for £399, Beijing £344: Dubai £288; Johannesburg £473 are available through The Travel Bug. Details: 0990 737747.

BRITISH Midland will launch Scandinavian flights on April 21 with fares of £98 for Copenhagen, Oslo at £138 and Gothenburg at £205. Details: 0345 554554.

■ BRITISH Airways has a £89 Apex between Gatwick. Plymouth, Newquay or Bristol. Details: 0345 222111.

■ THAI International has a £485 Super Saver Fare to Bangkok with domestic destinations such as Ching Mai or Chiang Rai priced at E545. Details: 0171-499 9113.

■ SEOUL-BOUND business class passengers flying BA can take along a companion free. So two persons pay £3,977. Details: 0345 222111.

CITY BREAKS in Europe and North America at savings of up to £40 a person are included in the new Springsavers programme from Brit-ish Airways Holidays. Prices start from £164 for two nights

■ ACTIVITY breaks for beginners and experts are on offer at holiday parks in Dorset from Hoseasons Holidays with lodge accommodation from £25 a person a week. Details: 01502 500500.

in Paris and £375 for three

nights in Boston. Details:

01293 723100.

■ FREE BULBFIELD tours are included in short breaks from Amsterdam Travel Service. Prices from £169 a person for two nights in a one-star hotel to £285 for a five-star hotel with return flights from London and Manchester. Details: 01992 456056.

■ THREE NIGHTS in Havana and ten at a Cuban beach resort from £499 a person all-inclusive with flights every Tuesday from April 15 until June 24 are on offer from The Cuba Experience. Details: 0171-916 2233.

BALI with savings of up to £191 a person is on offer until June 30 from Silk Cut Travel with prices starting from £779 for a week's accommodation and return flights. Details: 01730 265211.

THE ATLAS Mountains, a Berber village and ancient port are included in a nine-day Moroccan tour with Travelbag Adventures leaving Heathrow on April 26. Priced from £485 a person. Details: 01420 541007.

■ JAMAICA for a fortnight for £399 a person including room and Unijet flight from Gatwick on April 28 is available from Advantage Travel Centres. Details: 0990 881888.

■ AN AEGEAN cruise aboard Cunard's Vistafjord for 12 nights from May 5 for £1.413 a person is among the cut-price cruises on offer from Page & Moy. Details: 0116-250

■ VENICE for £219 a person for a week in a three-star hotel and flight from Manchester on May II, available from Cosmos. Details: 0161-5799.



Sissinghurst Garden, Kent (above), and Trust for Scotland sites are on offer to those booking a minimum two-night stay featured in the new Freedom Breaks brochure from Consort Hotels. Details: 0345 660418.

end break is £199 per person

for dinner, bed and breakfast

and ruition. Details: 01780

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luxe room at the Hotel Byblos in Si Tropez, France, will automatically be upgraded to a junior suite if booked

deluxe room starts at £153 per

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Touring. Details: 01305

■ THE Sol Melia hotel group

has a special "Buy Yourself a

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city hotels in Spain and Portu-gal for just over £30 per room

per night. The offer, available

until the end of the year, must

include a Saturday night stay.

Details: 0800 962720.

night. Details: 0800 181123.

THE four-star Arden Thistle Hotel in the heart of Stratfordupon-Avon has a Murder Mystery Weekend on May 16-18. The price of £165 per person includes a champagne recep-tion, two nights' accommoda-tion and full board. Details: 01789 294949.

ENTRANCE to the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy from June 1 to August 10, as well as a twocourse lunch at the nearby Brown's Hotel, is available for £17 per head or £23 for three courses. Details: 0171-518 4121.

KNOCKINAAM Lodge on the Scottish coast at Portpatrick, Wigtownshire, has a two-night gourmet weekend available on April 11-12 featuring three top chefs and including a wine-tasting and kitchen demonstration. Price is £220 per person for two nights including dinners. Details: 01776 810471.

I LEARN to drive an off-road four-wheel-drive vehicle at a weekend break during May at the Haycock Hotel at Wansford near Peterborough, Cost for the four-by-four week-

The source

UK conage holded as

P&O EUROPEAN Ferries has rates of 50 per passenger and £15 per car on sailings from Portsmouth to Le Havre or Cherbourg. Visitors can spend up to 36 hours in France, valid until May 15. Details: 0990

STENA LINE has a special 100 five-day fare on Doverthrough Leading Hotels of the World this month. Cost of a Calais and Newhaven-Dieppe routes until May 22, valid for a car and up to nine people. A standard return costs £126 but both must be booked and paid for by April 30. Details: 0990 707070.

■ SEA FRANCE has undercut Stena with a £49 fare for a car and nine passengers on Dover-Calais for travel by May 11. Fares for travel by May 22 rise to £66 for a car and five passengers, with additional passengers costing £2. Details: 0990 711711.

STENA has space on its two freight ships operating Harwich-Hook of Holland for cars towing caravans, or motorhomes. The £198 return is available from June to September. Details: 0990

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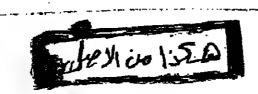


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people want to indulge their

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ness opportunities or visit

And those who provide them with the means argue

that unless airports, airlines.

hotels and car hire com-

panies expand, the ever-

increasing demands of their

customers will not be met.

Millions of people will be

denied their aspirations -

and rights - of free and

unhindered travel, and

prices will inevitably spiral

That, at least, was the

perceived wisdom until last

But during an otherwise

anodyne conference of avia-

tion experts in Stockholm, some influential people ques-

tioned the idea of unending

secretary-general of the As-

sociation of European Air-

lines, admitted that "the

problem of aviation is our

continued growth". And Bob

Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, said that

the industry now wished to

find ways of reducing the

steps towards admitting the existence of the central prob-

lem facing the travel industry. Yet airlines and airports

seem ready to accept that they must move away from

what Tony Goldman, Brit-

ain's top aviation civil ser-

vant, called "predict and

"Airlines must learn the

hard lesson that growth is

not a good story any longer,"

Mr Neumeister says.

"Growth is counter-

I have often argued that

airports and air traffic con-

productive."

impact on the environment. These may seem small

Karl-Heinz Neumeister,

growth.

because of constraints.

friends and relatives.

HARVEY ELLIOTI

to cope with increased de-

mand. But there are limits to

The first time I began to

understand the meaning of

the phrase "limits to growth"

was also in Stockholm -

more than 25 years ago

during the first world envi-

continuent conference in 1972.

The arguments then were

much the same as they are

panding too fast, fossil fuels

are running out, species of

animals and plants are being

wiped out, we are using too

much water, tourists are

swamping large parts of the

Earth and noise is becoming

Somehow the world has survived the last quarter of a

century and air travel has

expanded beyond the wildest

dreams of the environmental

pioneers who gathered in

Stockholm all that time ago.

the environmental move-

ment as never before. Suddenly unrepresentative

groups, such as Swampy and his friends, are getting

the headlines and the sup-

port of the people. Heath-

row's proposed Terminal 5.

however logical and econom-

ically necessary, is looking

as likely to be built as John

Major's Government is to be

But at least in Stock-holm last week those who really care about

the travel industry seemed

prepared to face up to the

environmental problems

who call for a cap on the expansion of airports and air

travel generally will also

begin facing up to some hard

questions, too. Who will

suffer from the curbs they

demand? It will surely not be

the business traveller who

must fly whatever the price or whatever the difficulty.

The victims will be private

individuals exercising their right to pleasure and leisure.

posed by their business. Perhaps those opponents

But now the force is with

intolerable.

such growth.

Are you a tipper or tight-fisted?

THE BRITISH abroad are enthusiastic tippers but confused about when and where to give extra and so tend to err on the mean side. according to a survey published today. The research by Gallup for Visa UK reveals that Britons are trying to throw off their reputation for being tight-fisted, but are uncertain about the rules of tipping in foreign countries and are happier to find a service charge on their bills.

"That uncertainty is reflected in the amount we tip abroad which is surprisingly modest and often less than 10 per cent, "says Carmel Clarke of Visa. Eighty-five per cent of the 1,000 people questioned do, however, believe in tipping while on holiday and only 2 per cent say they have never given a tip when abroad. Holidaymakers almost always tip

the waiter or waitress in a restaurant; two out of three give gratuities to taxi drivers, hotel maids and porters: more than half even tip bar staff, but only a third pay anything extra to hairdressers abroad. Most insist, however, that they only tip if the service is good to excellent.

This British willingness to tip abroad contrasts with the approach at home where an increasing number of people complain about what Hilary Rubinstein, editor of the Good Hotel Guide, calls "the arbitrary, antiquated and discreditable practice of imposing a service charge or touting for tips".

The British reputation for meanness is partly upheld by the survey. While most other Europeans and Americans will give gratuities of between 10 and 15 per cent, 57 per cent questioned by Gallup said they would tip less than 10 per cent. One in four said they would give between Il and 15 per cent and only one in 16 would give more.

Half of the 16 to 24-year-olds interviewed were unclear about how much to tip on holiday, but far fewer mature tourists admitted to being uncertain. The research has helped to shape the information provided by Visa in this year's holiday money guide which the credit card company offers free to holidaymakers. The guide focuses on money customs, including tipping and haggling, in a dozen popular holiday destinations.

"Practices vary from country to country and it makes life easier for holidaymakers if they know what to expect," Ms Clarke says. "In the United States, for example, you should tip in every situation, whether someone is carrying your bags or hailing a taxi.

In Thailand, the picture is the opposite and no one expects a tip. In Australia and Spain, the approach is similar to this country."

General advice from Visa on tipping is to carry a small amount of local currency with you so that you can reward the person who carries your luggage at the airport or hotel. Visa also advises holidaymakers to check their bills to see if a service charge has already been added so that they do not pay twice, and to seek advice about local ripping customs if they are unsure.

The Gallup survey also reveals that the traditionally reserved British are happy to haggle on holiday. Six out of ten said that they had haggled for clothes and souvenirs when shopping abroad and had found it "a challenge and fun". The rest, however, still find it "embarrassing".



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sly small.

Tip airport and hotel porters \$1 a bag taxi drivers 15-20 per cent of the fare; hotel doormen \$2 on arrival, In restaurants, tip about the same amount as the tax charged (17 per cent).

FRANCE

Tip porters, guides, door-men, taxi drivers and hairdressers FFr 5-10. In cafés and restaurents, a 15 per cent charge is normally added but extra 10 per cent for good service is normal.

Tipping porters and taxi drivers is not necessary. In restaurants and hotels, a service charge is usually included but leave an additional tip of 10-15 per cent and at least 1,000 lire.

Tip porters up to 500 pese-tas but tipping taxi drivers is not essential. In restaurants, tip 5-10 per cent for good service; in hotels, service is

TURKEY

Tip airport and hotel porters, theatre and cinema ushers a small amount. Taxi drivers do not expect a tip but you could round the fare up. In restaurants, tip 10 per cent

THAILAND

Tipping is not the custom and even taxi drivers do not expect extra. Staff in some city restaurants do now welcome tips although a service charge is sometimes added. Tip the bellboys in top hotels.



Cottage holidays are back in fashion as families rediscover the joys of Britain

UK cottage holidays boom

MILLIONS of young famllies, raised on package holi-days in the Mediterranean, are rediscovering traditional British self-catering breaks by the sea and in the countryside.

Bookings for cottages are booming as young couples, bored with Spain or Greece, are turning to the kind of holiday their grandparents enjoyed as children, but which they have never had. A sharp improvement in the

quality of properties, investment in attractions and the recent run of good summer weather have combined to convince record numbers of parents in their twenties that Britain is a holiday destination to rival the traditional foreign sunspots.

There is a whole generation of people under the age of 30 who have never known anything but a cheap foreign package — and they are getting fed up with it," says Geoff Cowley, marketing director of Country Holidays, part of the Holiday Cottages

"Lifestyles have changed in the past few decades and the huge investment that has been made in Britain has proved that Britain has attracBY HARVEY ELLIOTT

tions, too - and you don't have to fight through crowded

ional Trust, says that forward bookings were "extremely

are looking to this country for their one-week holiday," she says. "The quality is so high now that it is attracting an enormous number of repeat

bookings, too." The English Tourist Board says cottages appeal to the independent holidaymaker. "Improved quality and value for money, coupled with child-friendly facilities mean that self-catering is being recognised as an attractive alternative to hotel accommo-

The average price of one of ranean package.

airports to find them."

Judy Robson, holiday coltages manager for the Natgood" and that almost all their properties had been booked from May to

There is no doubt people

dation," a spokesman says.

the 10,000 properties let by Country Holidays is about £300 a week for four people. This compares with about £250 per person for a Mediter-Holiday cottages are partie- nate in summer.

ularly popular with young families because they can reach their destination easily. taking as much as they want with them, including toys.

A growing number of cottage-owners are now letting their properties through companies specialising in British holidays, but there is still an acute shortage of quality

The countryside is also becoming popular with for-eign visitors with bookings up more than 10 per cent on last year. This year the overall market is expected to grow by at least 3 per tent, partly because of the recent good weather, which has drawn record numbers to the seaside. Short breaks are increas

ingly popular, up 21 per cent. breaks are still taken between Easter and October, holidays outside school holidays have shown consistent growth. Autumn has had the most spectacular growth rate. Bookings for November have risen by half in the past two years. The Lake District is still the most popular area for a cottage holiday overall, but Cornwall and the West Country domi-

British Airways plans New York 'second home'

By Harvey Elliott

BRITISH Airways is to spend more than \$100 million building a "second home" at New York's JFK airport. The goahead for the terminal was ordered by the BA board last week after secret internal reports convinced it that the American Airlines will get the go-ahead despite mounting opposition on both sides of the

When it is completed in 1999, the terminal will be the most modern in America and, BA believes, will persuade millions of passengers to use the proposed hourly "shuttle" service to Britain, to be jointly operated by BA and AA.

"Our investment will put us light years ahead of the competition at JFK, permitting passengers to depart and arrive tirelessly," says Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, "It will feature expanded check-in areas, new lounges and state-of-the-art amenities designed to meet the demands of premium business travelpassengers."

However, the real emphasis will be on wooing executives. RA is anxious to house the number of people prepared to spend more than ten times the

price of the cheapest Apex return fare for the comfort of travelling business class. A Super Apex return flight can now be bought for as little

as £219 compared with £844 for a fully flexible economy ticket, a business-class fare of £2.680, a first-class return fare of £4,746 and a seat on Concorde for £5,596 return. Market research has shown that business travellers want superior treatment to fellow leisure passengers.
The new terminal will have

an "extended care zone" with new lounges for premium passengers and direct access to the departure gates, parking areas on the departures level and a revolutionary elec-

tronic baggage system.

The terminal should be completed soon after the proposed link between the two airlines has been finalised. All AA services to Britain will then be moved to the new building, together with many of the key connecting services from within the United States enabling passengers to fly to London through a single

British Airways operates more services to Britain from New York than any transatlantic carrier, with more than 2,100 seats from JFK to London each day in the summer peak and more than 2,600 seats from JFK to the UK generally. More than 700,000 passengers fly on BA each year on more than 4,200

departures from New York. The airline is cashing in or the fact that it will be the only airline in New York to have its own terminal. All others have to share - as BA does at Heathrow's Terminals 4 and 1. The lack of a central terminal at Heathrow en-

abling BA to handle all its flights has long been a source of frustration among the airline's senior staff. Now, they believe, the ter-minal at JFK will enable them

to create a second "hub" across the Atlantic which will he more convenient than Heathrow and underline BA's position as a global airline.

One of the key developments is a new access road linking the terminal to the nearby expressway, a "shortcut" road across the airport and a new Manhattan rail link to provide better and faster connections between the city and the airport.

The original terminal was built in 1970 and was last reburbished in 1991.



trol must expand if they are Is this price worth paying?

TOUR operators are attempting to cash in on pre-election boredom by persuading holidaymakers to flee the country in the run-up to polling day, Harvey Elliott writes.

The travel industry hopes to attract "stay-at-home" voters by offering cut-price holidays and by mounting an antielection advertising and marketing campaign.

Travel agent A.T. Mays has Election Buster bargains from April 24, with 1,000 holidays reduced in price.

Kuoni is advertising "soundbite-free zones far away from the electioneering".

Its "pre-election bargains" range from 11 nights self-catering in Cyprus for £199 per person to 16 nights along the Yangtze River in China for

Meanwhile, Italy is experiencing a boom because of the fall in the lire. Bookings for the Riviera and Tony Blair's favourite holiday destination, Tuscany, are up by as much as 30 per cent on last year.

Just a little bit closer

THE OFFICIAL safety distance between passenger jets crossing the Atlantic has been least £20 million a year, Harvey Elliott writes.

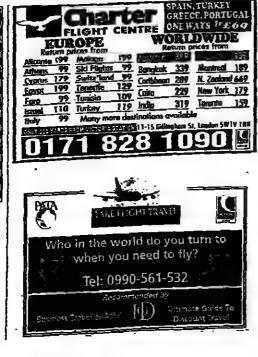
Aircraft will now be only 1,000ft apart vertically, instead of 2,000ft. Bob Thornson, manager of air traffic control for the Civil Aviation Authority, says: "With the large number of aircraft flying across the Atlantic it has not always been possible for airliners to operate at heights

that are most suitable for fuel economy. The introduction of the new separation limits additional flight levels available. More aircraft will be able to fly for more of the time at the heights that allow

maximum fuel economy." About 70 per cent of jets flying across the Atlantic are equipped with new precision altimeters which are sufficiently accurate to enable them to use the reduced minimum separation limits.

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SO MANY British tourists want to visit the Falkland Islands, in the wake of the military task force that set sail 15 years ago this week, that travel companies are increasing the number of holidays to the colony.

An artist's impression of the \$100 million British Airways terminal at JFK airport

The latest British invasion will be led by cruise ships, recalling the vital role liners such as the QE2 and Canberra played in the conflict.

P&O, owners of the Canberra, which is making her final voyage this summer, is doubling the number of cruises visiting Port Stanley, the Falklands' capital, next winter and doubling the size of the liner making the trip.

The 1,200-berth Royal Princess is taking over from the Pacific Princess, which carries only 600 passengers, and will make five sailings around Cape Horn, including stops in

By TONY DAWE

The cruises have become so popular that they justify the increase in our programme." says Nigel Esdale. P&O Cruises marketing manager. Many of our passengers take the opportunity of a day on the islands to make an emotional trip to San Carlos Bay where most of the British forces

More British tourists will be visiting the islands with two American cruise companies. Society Expeditions and Quark, on trips organised by Journey Latin America, based in Chiswick, west London.

Chris Parrott, the company's marketing director, says: Most of our clients are attracted to the islands by their unspoilt beauty and wildlife which includes five different types of penguin, seals and

Tourists set to invade Falklands

Chris Breen, who runs Wildlife Worldwide which organises trips by air to the islands, says: "Awareness of the Falklands in terms of wildlife tourism has benefited from increased traffic en route from the Antarctic. The realisation that the islands are a unique natural history destination is only just beginning to be appreciated by specialist tour operators."

The best season for tourists is the islands' summer, from October to early March, and specialist tours are generally timed to coincide with large numbers of penguin chicks taking to the sea and young elephant seals congregating on the beaches.

Mr Breen adds that tourism is becoming so popular that the Falkland Islands Tourist Board is trying to manage

the environment.

For those more interested in the battles of 15 years ago, Holts Tours of Sandwich, Kent, arranges occasional trips which take in the main battlefields, including Goose Green, Bluff Cove and Tumbledown Mountain.

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Formal Gold can shine in Dubai

By Julian Muscat

AFTER four days of calm which followed Saturday's storm, the second running of the \$4m Dubai World Cup. the world's richest race, is to take place at Nad Al Sheba today.

The return to fine weather has raised the spirits of the organisers, who have worked against the clock to make the previously waterlogged track fit for racing again.

Michael Osborne, the Dubai World Cup committee chairman, said yesterday: "It's a pity we're not running tonight because the track has dried out remarkably quickly. It's gone from disaster to raceable within three days.

"We've achieved in the last few days what had taken us six months before. Many of our guests who were here on Saturday have gone home, but a hard core of about 250 remain and I'm sure it won't lessen the event.

"The easiest decision to have taken on Saturday would have been to say Forget it folks. come back next year.' That would have been commercially realistic, but Sheikh Mohammed doesn't work like



Even Top's trainer, Mark

Tompkins, is hopeful of a bold

show. "He's done really well

from three to four and I am

hoping that this could be his

year. We've been able to train

him consistently for the last

two months, whereas last year

we were having to stop and

start for injuries. I think he

can go from strength to

However, the three-pronged

challenge from the United

States should still take all the

ning style will have been helped by the drying surface, which may now compromise the chance of his stable-com-

that may see him lead home a

repeat of last year's American

strength," he said.

through the mud.

they may been short of before.



Tompkins: hopeful

	G; GOOD	DRAW: HIGH NUMBERS FAVOUR	REI
1 (1) (2) (3) (4) (6) (8) (7) (7) (8) (7) (12) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7	20514 EVENTOP 166 (6 21121- SINGSPEL 130 R 225-16 FORMAL 60LD 3 51113- HELSSID 130 (D) 61/11- REMENSARTH 1 14/10-1 HOROTO MESA 57 0-2123 JUSGET 24 (LB 113-11 SEPHIN 32 (DF.6 1310-11 KAMMTARPA 21 133-12 SAMDET 32 (DF.6 1112-3 KEY OF LUCK 25 1236-4 BUOU DTMCE 25 26141- LUSO 116 F.6 (UP (£1,428,571: 1m 21) (13 runners) (Mr 8 Schmid-Bodwer) M Yoriginos (68) 4-9-0	Bran Mere G Harri G Bos Rose Delta France Kynan Kynan

BIG-RACE FIELD BBC2

THUNDERER

2.15 Mystic Hill. 2.45 Prince Equiname. 3.20 Doualago. 3.55 Little Shefford. 4.30 Northern Singer, 5.00 Departure. Carl Evans: 5.00 Departure.

GOING: FIRM (HARD IN PLACES) 7AM INSPECTION

2.15 ORCHARD FM TIM MANNS MADEN HURDLE (£2,040: 2m 1f) (5 runners) beating. Siphon's front-run-

panion, Sandpit, who would have been well suited by a slog However, Formal Gold, trained by William Perry, possesses a telling turn of foot

3.20 WSM MERCEDES BENZ ACTROS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,155: 3m) (2) 1 11/0 DOUNLAGO 47 (B.F.G.S) N Pros 7-12-0 G Supple (5) 2 U441 HERBERT BUCHANAN 1 (7) P Nachols 7-10-12 ... Mr J Tizzard (7) 10-11 Herbert Bucharran, Evens Donalago

3.55 ORCHARD FM BOB MCCREADIE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,201: 2m 11) (3) 1 APP4 LAYHAM LOW 180 (F) 0 Stermood 8-11-10 ___ J A McCarthy 2 1282 LITTLE SHEFFORD 10 (CD.F) M Muggeride 5-11-1 _ S Contan 3 0403 SHEFING MOOR 22 (D.F) F Jordan 5-10-6 Detak Byrne

5-4 Little Shellard, 7-4 Laytrans Love, 5-2 Shifting Moon. 4.30 WSM MERCEDES BENZ SPRINTER NOVICES CHASE (£3,318: 2m 110yd) (3)

5.00 WSM MERCEDES BENZ VITO HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,145: 3m) (8)

6-2 Restr Bridge, 3-1 Good King Harry, Departure, 6-1 L'Usano Pin. 6-1 others.

LEICESTER

2.25 Tea Party, 2.55 Indian Spark, 3.30 Battle Ground, 4.05 O'Higgins, 4.40 Three Cheers, 5.10 Nambucca, 5.40 Plaisir D'Amour.

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.25 HARBOROUGH FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,486: 1m 8yd) (7 runners)

9-4 Angel Page, 7-2 System Process. 5-1 Hear-years Late, Marche, E-1 Stress

2.55 LODDINGTON CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-0: £5,058: 5f 218yd) (6)

Press Grand Lad. 4-1 Indian Spark, 5-1 and Accord. 8-1 chess.

3.30 BURTON OVERY SELLING STAKES

(3-Y-0: £2,469 51 218yd) (11)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

LHCESTER Trainers No. J Cerd. 4 Winters from 17 comes. 22.5% J Georden, 13 Norm 63, 20.6% J Decider, 22 horn 118, 15.6%, 8 Manuton, 28 Norm 160, 17.5%, 6 American, 4 horn 28, 14.3% Josephys. Pat Bodiery, 39 winters from 159 Index, 24.5% J State, 6 horn 26, 23.1%, S Sanders, 6 horn 25, 17.1%, J Cerd., 7 from 42, 16.7% Sammers, o main set, 17 feet o canala, 7 meta etc. 16 feet.
TAUNTON: Trainmers. M Fipe. 44 minutes bann 206 manners. 21.4%; O Shermond, 4 from 23, 17.4% F listends. 9 from 58, 10.2%. Jostinya; S Canain, 4 from 37, 10 8%, T Dascentabe, 8 from 77, 10.4%.

4.05 KNIGHTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: £2.716: 51 2yd) (10)

AFILI AND A LEG C Dever 9-0 J Stack

S O' RECEIS 12 R Zero 9-0 W Ryan

PRINCE FILLEY W G M Tenner 1-1 D McGadle (7)

RESETTED R REARMS 9-0 PRESENT Y

RESTY SAME J Ocean 9-0 K Dadey

SANGOTH SAME NO K McGadle 9-0 J F Span

STAN NO B R Perima 8-0 T Span

STAN NO B R Perima 8-0 T Span 3-4 Sensor Honorn, 5-2 Released 7-2 O' Happins, 8-1 Philips Folloy, Alban Da. 12-1 Sensor Salang 14-1 attess.

4.40 LANGHAM MAIDEN STAKES

(£3,677-1m 3f 183yd) (6) 4-9 Times Chests, 7-2 Night Listage, 10-1 Note, 16-1 Ondy, 20-1 Set A Life, Tellutria and

5.10 SIMON DE MONTFORT MAIDEN STAKES

(£4.123: 1m 1f 218yd) (9) 6-4 Stemm Harcount, 7-2 London's Heart, 9-2 Nanobucca, 6-1 Surissy, 7-4 Machines, 8-1 Western Sonata, 10-1 others.

5.40 KIBWORTH HANDICAP (£3,869: 71 9yd) (10)

8 (6) 400- SAFEY ANA 176 (D.F.G) B Hambury 6-8-3 (COmmobius 17) 99 (9) 016- MASTER M-E-N 192 (V.F.) N Babbago 5-8-0 R Melaton (5) 95 10 18) 00-2 LAST CHANCE 7 (F) D Cosprove 3-7-11 ... N Caddale 93 2-1 Plasse D Amour 4-1 Last Charces 9-2 Tome 01 Night, 5-1 Vistory Team, 7-1 Night Dence, 5-1 Edupore, 10-1 Americanas, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME. Aintree: 2.00 No Paltern. Leicester: 3.50 Breve Erwoy 4.40 Tiree Cheers.

Whenyou just can't talk to anyone, talk to us.

Despair doesn't work nine to five. Despair comes in the small hours of the night, or on Christmas Day. It comes at weekends, or when you're surrounded by people.

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Hamilton Park Going; soft, good to soft in places 2.10 (5! 4yd) 1, MISTER BANKES (T Sprake, 1-3 tay), 2, Memma's Boy (K Darley, 4-1); 3, Filey Brigg (J Quinn, 33-1), ALSO RAN 8 Onel Gri (4th) 4 ran 29:1, 34, 1 MI W G M Turner at Sherborne. Tota: \$1.20, DF, \$1.40, CSF \$1.87. Total: \$1.20. Dr. \$1.40. CSF \$1.57.

2.40 (6) 5yd) 1, PM STBL HERE (K Darley, 5-2 tev); 2, Native Theatch (T Sprake, 5-1); 3, Implish (Dale Gibson, 8-1), ALSO RAN: 11-4 Why O Sx (8th), 8 northern Sal (Sth), 11 Mauray Grey (4th), 6 rat. NRt Mass Fugit Penanca Nk. Ab, 5, hd, 1% J Benry at Cockerham Total. 2250, £1.10, £3.00, DF: £7.40, CSF £11.24.

\$11.24.
3.10 (1m 1f 38yd) 1, HRGH PREMIUM (A Cufhane, 2-1 feet, 2, Sun Mark (G Duffield, 33-11, 3, Calder King (S Copp. 8-4), ALSO RAN: 4 tail The Lucky (4lth), 10 Ten Pest Sk (6th), 12 Henby (5th), 14 Amany, 25 Men Of Wickerby, 50 Samstofry, See You Soon, 66 Simoozy, 100 incartinge, 12 rén. M, Mel, 14lt, T. 9, R Fahey at Melton. Toter £3 40; £1.90, £4.20, £1.30. DF: £57 40. Trio: £54.30 CSF £75.46.
3.46 (1m 68wd) 1, ROCK ISLAND LINE (P

CSF 275.45.
3.40 (1m 68yd) 1, ROCK ISLAND LINE (P Roberts, 5-1), 2, Tycoon Tins (R Mullen, 16-1); 3, Manifemo (N Kennady, 12-1), ALSO RAN. 7-4 tev Mumon Wallece (5th), 2 Swiss Coast (4th), 12 Eurobink Windsong, Sweet Note (6th), 7 ran 8, 141, 41, 141, 32, 1 Berry at Codestram, Tote: \$4.90, \$24.80, \$24.00, DF: £51.60 CSF 579.32 Bought in 8,200, ye.

CSF 579-32. Bought in 8,200gms.
4.10 (1m 3l 16ycl) 1, MANIFUL (N Kennedy, 8-1); 2, Lord Advocate (N Varley, 33-1); 3, Moonraiding (Dela Gloson, 12-1); ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Express Gift (6th), 8 Domino Phyer, 13-2 Veridian, 7 Sing And Dance, 10 Lord Hastle, 14 Suca Tornado, Suga Hawit (4th), 25 Breydon, 33 Gifthou, 65 in Huchles Lacy, 100 Papad Mover (6th)- 14 ran, NR-Northern Motto, Nk, 8i, sh hd, 10i, 14, Mase L. Pernati et Ayr. Tota: 25.10; 22.40, 23.30, 23.40, 07: E40.50, Tric: 255.40 (part won: pool of £150.18 carried tervard to 3.45 at Ambres (poley). CSF: £240.40. Tricest: £2,876.47

4.40 (1m 4(17yd) 1, GLOBE RUNNER (K

Worcester

Going: good to firm

2.30 (2m hdte) 1, RIPARIUS (J Osborne, 13-8 tav); 2, Mischief Ster (6-1); 3, Moon Devil (10-1). ALSO FAN. 9 Sporig Cempaign (4th) 13 nm. NR: Blue Havana. 3, 4l. F. Webber Tote; 52.40; 51-40, 52.10, 52.40. DF: 513.00. The 3.00 (2m 71 110)d (h) 1, DOMAINE DE PRON (R Bellerny, 7-2); 2, High Leerle (12-8 tay); 6 ran, Only two finished, NR Deep Song Dist, MR 5, Taylor Tole, £4 20; £1,70, £1,80 DF, £3,00 Tho

any oner. 12:00 Car 12:38.
3.30 (3m hole) 1, ROYAL PIPER (L. Harvey, 14-1); 2, Barford Sovereign (13-2); 3, Catis Rose (6-1), ALSO RAN; 9-2 fev Bankread (4th), 17 an. AR; Kingdom Ol Shades Wi, 19il A J Wilson, Tote, 913 60; 62 70, 92-10, 92-40, DF: 940 30, Tho: £155.60, CSF; \$83.11.
Tricast; £566.64.

170-36: (250-56).
4.00 (2m 2! holle) 1, HANDY LASS (Mr O McPhail; (10-1); 2, Peter Monamy (11-2); 3, Kino's Cross (18-1), ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Above The Cut. 9-2 Barten Scamp (4h) 15 ren 3, 101, 5 mith Tote: £13,00; £2.50, £2.30, £5.30 DF £37.30 Tric: £114 80, CSF: £55 \$1, Theast: £807.81. E114 80. CSF: 350 S1. Incess: 220151.
4.30 (2m 41 110yd ch) 1, NO FIDDLING (D Bridywater, 10-1); 2. Wirmow (16-1); 3. Lobster Cottage (14-1); 4. Dandie Imp (8-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 ser Boots N All. 17 ren NF. Cheokes. M. 11. G McCourt. Tote. £12.60; £3.20, £3.80. £2.20, £2.20. DF: £168 70. Tric: £1,028.80 (part won: pool of £669 47 carried forward to 3.45 st. Artrus. today). CSF £148.73. Tricast. £2,082.63.

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Maaring 1

to, 102,03.

5.00 (2m flat race) 1, PUPERT BLUES (M. Richards, 16-1); 2, Star Adventure (12-1); 3, Certain Shot (5-1), ALSO RAN: 4-1 tav Darmen's Choice (4th), 21 ran. NPC Samuel Wilderspin. 44, nk. J King. Tota: 524.20; 53 90, 53.30, 51.90 DF; 5174.20. Trio: not won (pool of 5216.1) certaed forward to 3.45 today). CSF, 5196.53. 6.30 (2m fish race) 1, MELODY MAID (M A Fizgerald, 2-1 fav); 2, Cobie Lane (16-1); 3, Brush With Fame (16-1); ALSO FAN 50 Quabmatic (4th), 20 ran. NR: Chabby Thoughts, Hack On 10, 2l. N Handerson. Tota: £3.00; £1.70, £2.20, £4.30 DF, £20.70. Tric: £63.30 CSF: £35.03.

Jackpot: not won tocol of £72,366.75 carried forward to Aleitree lockly). Placepot: £505.80.

Quedpot £183.10. Exeter

Going: firm 2.20 (2m 2f hote) 1, Sulpay

Placecot: \$1,137,50. Quadoot: £130.70.

Pick up the phone

staking \$25 or more using Switch or Delta bank or building society debit cards.

13/2 Golden Spinner 20/1 Kings Cherry 13/2 Kadi 20/1 No Pain No Gain

13/2 Romany Creek 13/2 Senor El Betrutti

13/2 Too Plush 7/1 The Frog Prince

10/1 Coonawara 12/1 Flimsy Truth 20/1 Bells Life

25/1 Sailor Jim 33/1 Yeoman Warrior 40/1 Master Boston

66/1 Cropredy Lad 150/1 Griffins Bar

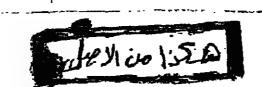
20/1 Pond House

25/1 Aly Daley

20/1 Change The Reign 200/1 Super Sandy LATEST ODDS ON WIRIAM HIM TY TEXT
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RACING

Irish hope ruled out of National

BY OUR RACING STAFF

TIME FOR A RUN, one of the leading hopes for the Martell Grand National at Aintree on Saturday, will miss the race. The Edward O'Grady-trained ten-year-old, the intended mount of Norman Williamson, has been heavily supported for the race in recent weeks but his owner, J P McManus, said yesterday: "I don't know exactly what the injury is, but I am told he has chipped a joint and is out of Aintree." Time For A Run had been quoted at

a Madel

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: THE FROG PRINCE (3.45 Aintree) Next best: Fasii (4.20 Aintree)

10-1 fourth favourite with Ladbrokes and William Hill. Williamson could now renew his Cheltenham Gold Cup-winning partnership with the topweight, Master Oats, whose participation is looking increasingly likely. Kim Bailey, his trainer, will walk the course this morning to decide whether to run the liyear-old, in whose absence the weights would rise by 151b. But at Worcester yesterday, Bailey said: "It's going to take

very fast ground for him not to

Watering of the National course began yesterday. lan Renton, the assistant clerk of the course, said yesterday: "On the Grand National course the going remains good, varying from the easy side of good to the quicker side of good in a few places. We started watering the Grand National course this morning with the intention of removing any fast ground. The forecast is for a bit of drizzle tonight." Lorcan Wyer has picked up

the attractive spare ride on General Wolfe. The 31-yearold has been chosen to partner the Tim Forster-trained gelding, whose regular partner, Richard Dunwoody, is committed to riding Smith's Band. Wyer, who will school General Wolfe at Forster's Shrop-shire yard today, said: "I won the Becher Chase on Kildimo but my National record is not great, although I got to the nineteenth on Joint Sovereignty one year."

General Wolfe disputed Grand National favouritism after winning on his reappearance at Haydock in February, only to be pushed out in the betting after a heavy defeat at Cheostow a fortnight later. Forster has high hopes that



Time For A Run, prominent in the betting for the Martell Grand National at Aintree on Saturday, will miss the race because of injury

last season's Scottish Grand National runner-up can emulate his previous Aintree winners, Well To Do (1972), Ben Nevis (1980) and Last Suspect "General Wolfe could not be better," he said. "Chepstow was the first poor race he has run and I think it may have come ton quickly after his hard race at Haydock, which was his first

Jamie Evans, three times champion jockey in Australia, will ride the outsider, Mugoni Beach, for Martin Pipe. However, Pipe's plans for his two other entries remain fluid. A spokeswoman said: "Jamie Evans rides Mugoni Beach but we haven't found a jockey for Evangelica."

for a long time."

Challenger Du Luc, who runs in the Martell Cup today, is doubtful for the Grand National. Another National entry in action this afternoon is Master Boston, who lines up for the John Hughes Trophy. David Bridgwater has paid the price for giving Escartefigue a poor ractical ride in the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham and been replaced by Richard Dunwoody at Aintree today. Bridgwater will also miss out on riding other horses owned by Darren Mercer and trained by David Nicholson, who said yesterday: "Between us we have said that for the time being we will have a change and I shall use the best jockeys available for

Mr Mercer's horses."

The Frog Prince poised to have legs of rivals Richard Evans delves into the form for the A wrestles with the thorny issues of the

general election and jittery stock market, racing's cogno-scenti must tackle the annual poser: will Chettenham Festival form stand up at Aintree? Some horses which give their best at Prestbury Park relish the return to championship action within three weeks: others find it too demanding, physically and mentally, and do not run within a stone of

their Cheltenham efforts. The Martell Cup Chase, the feature race on the opening day of the Grand National meeting, is a case in point. A strict reading of the formbook means Barton Bank, nine lengths second to Mr Mulligan in the Gold Cup, should have the beating of Challenger Du Luc and One Man (81b) worse off), who finished nine and 25 lengths behind at Cheltenham - yet I fancy him least of the three.

With much less emphasis on stamina around this extended but still sharp three miles, One Man and Challenger Du Luc should be seen to better effect. Both travelled sweetly at Cheltenham before their stamina limitations were exposed dramatically in the case of One Man, who looked a serious threat until between opening day of the Grand National meeting

Du Luc will be a bigger price and gets a narrow vote.
The Sandeman Maghull Novices' Chase provides a similar conundrum, although two who missed Cheltenham, Sublime Fellow and, in particular, Amancio, should not be ignored. Backers who burnt their fingers when Mulligan fell in the Arkle Chase will be anxious to recover losses, especially as he previously beat Squire Silk at Warwick and is now 7lb better off. However. the jumping of Squire Silk was much improved in the

should be better suited by this flat track, is preferred. The Frog Prince warrants support in the John Hughes Trophy Chase, despite being beaten a distance in his only race this season. Nick Gaselee's chaser has suffered from problems with his feet and was badly in need of the run at Newbury 33 days ago. The nine-year-old has come on significantly since that race

Arkle and, given that he

and looks well handicapped on his form over the past two The Glenlivet Anniversary Novices' Hurdle sees the reTriumph Hurdle, headed by Circus Star, runner-up to Commanche Court, However, the Triumph is a tough race and I prefer the chances of those runners who bypassed Cheltenham, aithough they must show improved form.

Summer Spell will have his supporters but Fasil can run a big race at long odds. The winner of two of his seven races on the Flat, including a decent Goodwood handicap. he was bearen less than four lengths on his second start over hurdles by Green Green Desent and High In The Clouds, both of whom run in today's opening race. Although his stamina was stretched when winning over 25 miles at Taunton 24 days

won by 26 lengths. The decision by connections Escartefigue to replace David Bridgwater with Richard Dunwoody will encourage support in the Barton & Guestier Handicap Hurdle. He can gain compensation for defeat in the Stavers' Hurdle. while the likely fast pace in the Seagram Top Novices' Hurdle will suit the enigmatic Green Green Desert.

ago, the runner-up recently

IN BRIEF

MARTIN LYNCH

Australia's grip broken by Rhodes

A TYPICALLY inventive 83 not out from Jonty Rhodes helped South Africa to reach 245 for eight against Australia on a slow and low pitch in the third one-day cricket international at Newlands, Cape Town, yesterday.

South Africa were in deep trouble at 106 for five in the 29th over after Ian Healy, who took over from Mark Taylor as Australia's captain, won the toss and chose to field. Relief came through a partnership between Rhodes and Derek Crookes, his Natal team-mate. which was worth 70, and 18 runs were scored from Shane Warne's final over.

Mark Waugh split the webbing on his right hand in dropping a slip catch offered by Jaques Kallis and was expected to bat only if absolutely necessary.

☐ Rugby league: Some nine months after lestyn Harris. 20, was put on the transfer list for a world-record fee of \$1.35 million by Warrington, the Wales and Great Britain back is expected to sign for Leeds Rhinos today. Harris is likely to make his debut for his new club in the home match against Wigan tomorrow.

☐ Table tennis: Katy Parker. 12. will become the youngest player to compete for England after being added to the squad for the world championships in Manchester later this month. She is the daughter of Donald Parker, the chairman of England selectors, and Jill Parker (née Hammersley), the women's team captain, who was European champion on three occasions.

Skiing: Tom Brown, from Torquay, profiting from ski-ing down the course first. justified his place as top seed in the British children's team by winning the boys' super glant-slatom by a margin of 1.60sec at the British Land childrens' national championships in Tignes, France vesterday.

☐ Boxing: Andy Holligan will defend his British lightwelterweight title against Carl Wright, another Merseysider, at Everton Park Sports Centre on May 15. On the same bill, Peter Culshaw, of Liverpool, will challenge Adey Lewis, of Bury, for the British flyweight

AINTREE

3.45 No Pain No Gain

2.00 Green Green Desert 2.35 Berton Bank

3.10 SQUIRE SILK (nap)

5.20 What A Question The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

4.50 ORCHESTRAL SUITE Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3,45 Florrany Creek

Carl Evens: 4.50 Orchestral Suita.

GUIDETO OUR INJUNE RACECARD

venue: or — owner secure in seek race; Soing on which hose kes won (F — form, pand to firm, hard G— pand S— soil, good to sell, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trumer. Age and meight. After plus any allowers. The Three Private Hendicapper's ming.

4.20 Ginger Fox 4.50 Johnny The Fox

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 SEAGRAM TOP NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: £16,730: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1331 GREEN GREEN DESERT 25 (D.F.(A) (D. Morcar) D. Shameind 6-11-0. D. Bridgenters
212 High an THE CLUBUS 35 (D.F.F.) (Mrs.) Grillo & Lady Bulcont F Former 3-11-0. S Wysen
41 MIDNIGHT LEGERO 14 (D.F.) (Mrs.) H. Carta) D. Michaelo 6-11-0. R. Johnson
414/272 MISTER RIM B. (D.F.) (F. Miss.) E. Mills M. Twister-Ominio 5-11-0. G. Linembyn
213 MISE. S. LAD 33 (D.S.) N. Despingron) P. Histari 3-11-0. Mr. Foster
223-7136 NO PATTERN 25 (V.G.) (N. Higant) B. L. Moore 5-11-0. D. Wilsel
124 SHARPICAL 20 (D.S.S) (Timese Theorophisms) B. H. Handarson 6-11-0. M. A. Fizyerald
331 CRANDON BOULEYARD 15 (D.F.) (Mrs. S. Morris, Mrs.) Privan 4-10-8. J. Debrum

BETTING: 5-2 Starpical, 4-1 Green Green Downt, 5-1 Migui's Lact, 5-1 High in The Clauds, Midnight Legend, 8-1 Morals Breuze, 10-1 Mistir Bro, 16-1 No Patiers, 25-1 Crandon Brusserd. 1996; TRAGIC HERO 4-10-8 J Lower 20-1 (M Pipe) 16 ms.

FORM FOCUS

REFEN BREEN DESERT best HREH IN THE CLOROS 314 in 18-renner novice hardin at Luttler C.M. pood) with MRDNRSHT LESSIND (6th two-se off short-head and S1 4M. MRDNRSHT LESSIND) (6th two-se off short-head and S1 4M. MRDNRSHT LESSIND heap Embantement 314 lo 14-renner meliden hunds of long through the completed of the standard off th

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BBC2

2.35 MARTELL CUP CHASE (Grade II: (£37,561: 3m 11) (5 runners)

BETTING. 10-11 One Man. 7-2 Barron Bank, 9-2 Merry Gala, 5-1 Challenger Du Luc, 25-1 Rougen. 1999: SCOTTON BANKS 7-11-5 L Wyer (9-2) T Exsterby 6 ran FORM FOCUS

ONE MAN 1/2nd of 4 to Strong Promise to grade (
Comel Crass at Ascol (2m 3) 110yd, good to firm)
Comel Crass at Ascol (2m 3) 110yd, good to firm)
On Hollogan in grade (Tota Chellenham God (
Cop at Chellenham (3m 2) 110yd, good with
Cop at

3.10 SANDEMAN MAGHULL NOVICES CHASE (Grade 1: 528,850 2m) (6 ruthers)

BETTERS: 4-5 Multigan, 7-2 Square Salt, 7-1 America, 10-1 Flying Instructor, 12-1 Oh Sa Resty, 14-1 Saltime

1996: ASK TOM 7-11-4 P Niven (10-1) T Tab: 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMANCIO completed inchie heat Latino 51 in 2tonner nonce chase at Ascrot (2m, good in limi)
RYNNG ARSTRUCTOR ZHÍ 3rd of 3 in Just Brock
RANNE ARSTRUCTOR ZHÍ 3rd of 3 in Just Brock
RANNE ARSTRUCTOR ZHÍ 3rd of 3 in Just Brock
Announce chase at Sandoum (2m, good in limi)
MURLIGAN heat SOURTE SALK (7th worse off) Ein
Announce Chase at Warnich (2m, good) and penuliNounce Chase at Warnich (2m, good) and penuliNounce Chase at Warnich (2m, good) and penulinounce Chase at Warnich (2m, good)
RESTRUCTOR (7th worse
INTERIOR AND RESTRUCTOR (7th worse)
INTERIOR AND

COURSE SPECIALISTS Profes % 24 29.2 29 21.4 44 20.5 19.2 16 18.8 17 17.6 **JOCKEYS** 21 23.8 A Dotobn 24 20.8 6 Bradley 50 18.0 N Wilsiamson 56 17.9 P Alven 40 17.5 C Learellyn 23 17.4 C Maude

RACELINE LEICESTER 102 202 TAUNTON 103 203 DUBAI CUP 104 204 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Broderick stable

SHANE BRODERICK the Irish jockey who suffered severe neck injuries in a fall at Fairyhouse on Monday, is confirmed as being on a life support machine in Dublin's Mater Hospital. His condition is reported as stable but he is unable to move below the neck.

3.45 JOHN HUGHES TROPHY CHASE HANDICAP (Grand National course, \$23,577, 2m 6f) (20 numers) BBC2

\$00.794 MASTER BOSTON 30 (6.3) All Oldsam R Woodware 9-10-13
82422-4 THE PROC PRINCE 30 (6.5) (6.00mm) H Sasake 9-10-13
43.1224 RODMAN CREEK 23 (V.F.R.5) (A Thompson) J Pointe (6-10-5, 1-25) (A) NO PANN MO GAIN 24 (6.5) (The Mane-Rose Parme: chep) J Gillion 0-5111: TOO PLUSH 33 (f.8.5) (A) TO Williams A Turnel 6-10-3, 1-31341 RUBSY TRUTH 25 (6.6) (A) TO Williams A Turnel 6-10-3, 1-31342 (PAMAEE THE REBON 33 (f.8.5) (Robotom) (Meston 11-10-2
502215 (GMSS CHERTRY 28 (0.5) (7 Swiffseld) 3 (0.4) 9-10-0. CHARGE CHERRY 28 (D.S.) (5 NOCSSON) MYSE A Forbibles CHARGE CHERRY 28 (D.S.) (5 Sombled) J. G.D. 9-10-0. SALUR JIM 16 (F.E.S.) (8 Pertons) F Doubto 10-10-0. YEJBAMA WARRINGS OF (5) (MS H AMERI A Rose 10-10-0. ALY CALLY 40 (F.E.S.) (Alf Charl) J Howard Advances 9-10-0. POUR HOUSE 225 (BF.S.) (Alf Charl) Myse 10-10-0. CROPHEDY LAD 41 (F) (H Smith) May F Say 9-10-0. SUPER SAMENY 28 (S) (Mrs. F Watson) F Watson 10-10-0.

Long handledg: Change The Reign 9-9, King; Cherry 9-6, Selos Jim 9-2, Pand House 6-13, Craprudy Lad 8-1 Grillins Bar 6-0, Super Sandy 6-11 BETTANÉ: 8-1 Too Plush, 7-1 Galden Spenner, Maé, Romany Creek, Saxor El Beinull The Fieig Prince, 10-1 Communes, 12-1 Filmoy Traft, 14-1 Bell's Life, 16-1 Change The Refor, No Pain No Gon, 20-1 eines 986; JOE WHITE 16-10-0 P Carbety (33-1) J Housed Johnson 21 sak

FORM FOCUS

SENOR EL BETRATTI best Pyr Four 21 in 1-sumer handicap chase al Navioury (3m, good to faut) DOOBAWATA opti Sternol 3 in 10-centre bardimanufacio ciuste al Nevatury (27) 41, quodi on per-ultimus cari BELLS LPE 1/3 Dri of 5 to As Sout in conditiona ciuste al Cheputore (7m 3 10) 4 soll) on penutimusta carr. ROMANY CREEK 3/4/ 4th of 14 to Flyer's letp to tenetican chuce al Chebusham (2m 11, good) with KACR (11b worse al) 5/4/8 8th.

TOO PLUSH complained has never that Mary Macs braid as 5-never handloop chase at Newbury 12m 4s, proof to part) with THE FROG PRINCE (2th mother with act 4th FLIMSY TRUTH) have Val Par Not 15th as 25-never amontor mites in landloop classe all Cheffordistra (Jim, goad for Simp. 18/46S)
CHERRY best High Altitudes 11% in 4-branes
handcod chase at Newbury (2m 11, good to soll) on
Designation that POND NOUSE had Sorrolly of the
6-current before thandcop chase at Philoppion (2m;
5-current before than the philoppion (2m;
5-current before than the philoppion (2m;
5-current before the philoppion

4.20 GLENLIVET ANNIVERSARY 4-Y-O NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: 4-Y-O: £26,234; 2m 110yd) (13 numers)

BETTYMÉ: 7-4 L'Opera, 9-2 Circus Star. 5-1 Hard News 7-1 Summer Speil, 12-1 Marlongite, Osalers Fishl, 14-1 Fai Open, 16-1 palers 1996. ZABACI 4-11-D A P McCoy (8-1) D Nicholson 11 ran FORM FOCUS

CORCUS STAR 11 2nd of 28 to Communiche Count in grade 11 Edin Rocing Club Triumph Hindle at Childrentum (2m 11, good) with UNFERA 31 4m, MARLONETTE 51 6th and MR WILD 71 8th. FAR OHANN 61 2nd of 11 to ted Raps in novice hardle at Workson (2m, good) with MR WILD 281 7th and FASEL 17 8th FASEL best Riverseasch 29-6 or 14 100 ft 18 to Communic mention hardle at Tarakton (2m 3 110) of good) in Season and the SUMAKERS FIELD (5th better oit) 141 5th CULAKERS FIELD (5th better oit) 141 5t

4.50 CUVEE NAPA NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE leurs: £7,108: 3m 10 (11 runners)

22152 ARDISREBHUAN 13 (CSI CC Bermett) J Porter 10-12-0. E James 70
1-071 BROGAMORUP 35 (F.E.5) (All Roberts IN Roberts 6-12-0 ... P Hacking B1
F-131 HONARYMAN 19F (F.E.5) (O Waggots) J. Anderson 7-12-0 ... R Lawther 76
285 LURBISA GLITTER 28 IM Waterlog in Smith 9-12-0 ... R Lawther 76
11 ORICHESTRAL SUITE 24 (F.S.) (Seats of 6 Pulgeont Mess J Polymon 9-12-0 https://doi.org/10.1001/35.3000 OC GOOD 35 (S) (B Beardone C Marron 5-12-0 ... Lay 76
282-235 TANGLE BARON 24 (F.S.) (P Ctarley F Centrings 9-12-0 https://doi.org/10.1001/35.1001/35.) (Carles 9-12-0 ... R Thomston 82
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387-14 MARGINETME 32P (F. Con BETTING: 7-4 Orchestral State, 7-2 Bustamoug, 5-1 Housystan, 7-1 Ardhentain, 10-1 Johnny The Fm. 12-1 Luriga Giller, Malong Time 14-1 others.

1986, WISHIP 7-12-8 Mr C Storey (15-8 tor) Mrs J Storey 9 can FORM FOCUS

ARDBREHMAN 18; 2nd of 7 to Fox Ponties in amateur riders hunger chase at Newbury (3m, good or first Names of Newbury (3m, good or first Names of Na

5.20 BARTON & GUESTIER HANDICAP HURDLE (£11,089 3m 110yd) (17 numers)

- 3	37-5335	ESCARTERGUE 21 (BF.S) (D MESCET) D VIICAGESTA 3-11-10 A DEFINITION OF
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- 3	100 748	SLVER SHRED 33 (C.F.C.S) (O density Atts V Williams 6-10-3 M Williamson
- 1	191-340	P Marie 7. 18 -3 P. P. C. C. III Holle Line M. Reprint 7.18-3
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13	550	TAMARPOUR 8 (B.F.G.) Tales A Cancerly bit Paper 10-18-0 B Masses (7)
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16	D2P-111	VICTOR BRAND 136 (B.D.J.G) (Mr. P. Baker) N. Gazelor 18-18-8 W. Marston
47	134.5.35	unds Links 另所分間 hally lands 5 tabants 10-10-0 Linear Line
••		ngdom Di Stades 9-13. Di Leuni 9-12 Taxaspour 9-12, House Captain 9-11, Smith Teo 9-
200	handsap: N	USOCIAL OF DARREST 2-15" For Ferral S. of
-	B . G . C	tion & D

BETTING; 6-1 Examplique 7-1 Examples, What 3 Cambins, 6-1 Bay Sacard, 9-1 Danging, Freddig Mack, 10-1 when; 1936: TOP SPM 7-10-11 A P MaChy (20-1) J Johns 19 cm

FORM FOCUS

ESCARTERCILE about 6/ 5th of 17 to March of grade 1 Brouspoind Slavers Hurdin at Chelenham (3m 110yd, good) with WHAT A QUESTION (3th better oit) 14/1 6th and TUP SPIN (2th better oit) 44/9/1 130, BRAVE TORNADO Lead Edomich 11 in 12-ronner handstap hurdin at Chepston (3m 4/10yd, soft) with DR LELWIT (5th better oit) 14/5/1 5th DABLING 71 3rd of 21 to Phazarear at handscap hurdin at Chelenham (3m 3, groot) with PRODE MUCK (1th better oit) about 6/1 6/2 at PRAZADIAN (2th better oit) stouch 6/1 6/2 at PRAZADIAN (2

tondicup horde at Chetestram (2m St. good to firm) with TAMARPOUR (20 belies ofly about 21 50 and DR LEUKT (Sie belies ofly 11 60, KORIG-DOM OF SKADES 31 2nd ol 8 to Potentale in

W 2007 SAUTH YOU had Barkened 2/41 is 4-named famili-SAUTH TOO USE DEPARTMENT 24% IN 4 CORDO SAUTH CERT NITTED AND TOO STORY OF THE SAUTH SAUTH

the last two fences. Challenger turn of four who ran in the SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the Christmas quiz, one question demonstrated the importance of leading low from honour combinations when you are attacking a suit bid on your right. I followed my own preaching on this hand, and it should have led to a good result.

Dealer South Game all 4K63

> +J109432

+AQ5 9.5 417542 W. ₹A 10 441092 - S **⊕K**6 **₽Q109** 4763 • K73 #AQ87

Contract: Three No-trumps by South, Lead; four of clubs Now things took an evil turn South opened One Club and

rebid One No-trump over North's One Heart. North rebid Three Hearts and South incorrectly insisted on Three No-trumps. My lead of a low club got the defence off to a sound start. If I had led the jack of clubs the defence would have had diffi-culty unscrambling the club suit. If East plays the king of

and plays a second club. declarer can put in the seven and has two more club stoppers. On the low club East played the king and South (Pyotr Gawrys, a member of the Polish team that won the European a few years ago) ducked. He took the second club and led a low heart. In case he had AlOx I ducked to give him a guess on the next round. I think that was im-

practical - usually a player

with that holding will start

with the ace on the first round.

clubs on the first round.

declarer can win and play

hearts. Now when East wins

for the defence. Declarer put in the eight of hearts from dummy and East (Colin Simpson) won with the ten. I think he should have appreciated from declarer's play of the eight of hearts that I must have the king, so he should have won with the ace. He returned a spade; I took the ace and cleared clubs, leading the nine to express interest in a lower ranking suit - I hoped that as this was obviously not

heart entry. On the nine of clubs Simpson missed our last chance -he should discard his ace of hearts. In practice he threw a spade, and now when Gawrys won and played a heart, the king and ace fell together, and we couldn't get at our winning

diamonds, my partner would

appreciate it was showing a

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LAMPREL a. A fish like a lamprey b. A vitamin c. A lampoon in verse

MELOPEPON a. A melon

b. A Spartan hoplite c. A mythical beast

a. A Greek headland b. An erotic song c. A mouse

LOOBILY a_ Awkward b. Tacking c. Unluckily

MYGALE

Answers on page 50



By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Eastern Imigris

After the days of De La Bourdonnais and St Amant, French chess suffered a relative decline. For several decades, no new world masters emerged and French strength was largely augmented by an influx of masters from Eastern Europe and Russia. Among the most notable of 23 these were Alexander 24 Alekhine, world champion 25

from 1927 to 1946 (with one break from 1935 to 1937), Boris Spassky, world champion from 1969 to 1972 and the ingenious grandmaster Xavielly Tartakower. Tartakower was a prolific writer and gifted straregist, who also had a sharp eye for tactics. It is somewhat unfair that many of the so-called hypermodern grandmasters, active in the 1920s and 1930s, such as Grunfeld, Nimzowitsch. Alekhine and Bogolyubov, have all had Black defences named after them. Tartakower him-self regularly employed the defence shown in today's game yet it is often dismissed by the anodyne terms, Old Indian or Irregular Defence. In the game which follows, having first undermined White's pawn structure, Tartakower's tactical breakthrough is particularly fine.

White: Appel Black: Tartakower Lodz 1938

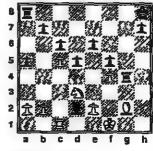
Tartakower Defence 1 N/3 3 d4 4 Qb3

7 Bg2

Can you see it.

9 0-0 10 Nf3 Boht

White resigna Diagram of final position



Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99+p&p).

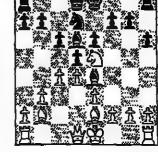
Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Cholmov - Sherbakov, Russia 1997. In this position, White played 1 Nxd7, presumably expecting Black to recapture, when he could castle with about an equal position. Black's reply must have come as an unpleasant surprise.

Solution on page 50



McCann

turns on

critics of

his reign

at Celtic

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FERGUS McCANN'S pa-

tience finally ran out yester-

day. Frustrated by growing

criticism of his control of

Celtic, the Scots-Canadian

businessman, who saved Celt-

ic from bankruptcy three

years ago, issued a belligerent

response to those who suggest

that he does not have the

club's best interests at heart.

In an article in the club

newspaper, Celtic View, McCann insisted: "If I wasn't

a Celtic supporter. I would be

3,000 miles away right now.

There are easier and more

hassle-free ways to make

money than investing in a football club, especially one

that was massively in debt, as

was the case when I became

Celtic managing director in March 1994. I put two-thirds

of my own money into Celtic three years ago. It was by no

means a safe investment and

there weren't people out there queuing up to put their own

McCann has faced loud

criticism after failing to make

a contract offer to either

Tommy Burns, the Celtic

manager, or Paul McStay, the club captain, whose present

deals at Parkhead expire this

summer. In addition, Brian

for a fortune. This is ridicu-

lous because even if my only

concern really was lining my

pockets, success on the foot-

ball front would be para-

mount, as this is what drives

the whole business forward

and to achieve it you must

invest, which is what we have

done on and off the park and

what we will continue to do."

ciation can also prepare to face

McCann's wrath, for the Celt-

ic chairman is ready to pursue

his argument with the SFA

Portugal striker, Jorge Cadete,

last April. Cadete was deemed

ineligible for a Tennents Scot-

tish Čup semi-final with Rang-

ers after the SFA insisted his

international clearance had

not been received before a

14-day deadline. McCann

wants compensation for

wages paid to Cadete while he

was ineligible, but the request

was thrown out by the SFA's

executive committee last week.

McCann is pondering wheth-

er to take legal action or protest to Uefa. European

Celtic will play Manchester

United at Old Trafford on

Tuesday, April 15 in Brian

McClair's testimonial game,

which rewards the Scotland

international for his ten years

with the English champions.

football's governing body.

the registration of the

The Scottish Football Asso-

about Celtic's "soul".

this new era."

life savings on the line."

Ireland press self-destruct button

FROM PETER BALL IN BRODJE

IRELAND'S hopes of qualifying for the 1998 World Cup finals suffered a serious blow under the snow-covered Sdrno Gora mountains yesterday. Defeat here means that they will have to beat the group leaders, Romania, in Bucharest at the end of the month to revive their hopes.

They deserve little sympathy, for the damage was largely self-inflicted in an in-ept first-half display, probably

GROUP EIGHT

RESULTS: Macedonia 3 Lechteristeri 0, loeland 1 Macedonia 1: Dechteristeri 0 keland 5, Romania 3 Lithiania 0, Lithiania 2 loeland 0 keland 0 Romania 4: Iretand 3 Macedonia 0, Lithiania 2 Lechteristeri 1; Lechteristeri 1 Macedonia 11 letand 0 loeland 0, Macedonia 11 letand 0 loeland 0, Macedonia 3 letand 2 Marcheristeri 0, Macedonia 3 letand 2 Marchesisteri 0, Macedonia 3 letand 2 Marchesisteri 0, Macedonia 3 letand 2 Marchesisteri Romania 1 letand 1 letandia 1 letandia

their worst since the defeat by Holland at Anfield that ended their interest in qualifying for the European championship last year - and that was by the illustrious Dutch: this was by Macedonia, whose only previous victims in competitive football in their brief history had been Liechtenstein and Cyprus.

To compound an awful display, Jason McAteer was sent off for fouling and then scuf-fling with Sakiri two minutes into injury time. He will now be suspended for the game in Bucharest. Stojkovski was also sent off for his part in the

Two penalties for handball Macedonia's cause.

Northern Ireland1

By DAVID MADDOCK

THERE is something about

the Irish that encourages un-

likely optimism, but under

but grew heavy with intent,

reality finally reined in North-

ern freland's innocent ambition yesterday. Defeat in this

World Cup qualifying tie virtually ended their dream of

reaching the finals in France

it was always an outrageous

prospect in a group containing

Germany, Portugal and their

techincally impressive oppo-

nents yesterday, but even in

defeat the Irish fostered hope

for more than an hour by

threatening an upset that

would have reversed their

After drawing level they

dominated for a spell in the

second half, when Hill and

Dowie both had chances, but.

as the clouds closed in,

tiredness and the superior

fortunes in group nine.

next summer.



Breen, right, despite outjumping the Macedonia defence, fails to get his header on target as Ireland slump to defeat in Skopje yesterday

but the general sloppiness of Cascarino heading down Ireland's play was even more Keane's cross for McLoughlin fundamental to the result. "It was a very disappointing performance." Mick McCarthy. the Ireland manager, said. No one can put his hand on

his heart and say he played as well as he can. I did not think it could get worse after going 3-1 down, but it did. We were well beaten and had our backsides kicked." Yet, against a side with

reputedly fragile morale, Ireland could hardly have had a better start, taking the lead

quality of the Ukrainians took their toll. Even so, Bryan

Hamilton, the manager, found something to smile

about, despite a loss that

means his side will surely

miss out once more on a

"We were in the game and

not afford to lose." Hamilton

said. "But this is a young side

that will only get better and in

this campaign we have shown

that there is plenty of promise

He is right in that there is

potential in abundance, but

one wonders whether it is time

for another manager to at-

Albenia 4 0 1 3 7 7 1
(Not stolucing last night's match: Albania v Germany)
RESULTS: Northern Ireland 0 Ukraine 1
Armena 0 Portugel 0, Northern Ireland 1
Armena 1; Ukraine 2 Portugal 1; Albania 0
Portugal 3, Armena 1 Germany 5, Albania 1
Armena 1; Germany 1 Northern Ireland 1, Portugal 1 Ukraine 0, Northern Ireland 2

leading championship.

for the future."

Hamilton's world falls apart

GROUP NINE

to nip in and head the ball

That seemed likely to be that, but instead of building on the lead, ireland began to give the ball away consistently, launching long balls aimed towards Cascarino and Goodman more in hope than expectation that gave Macedonia a wealth of possession. Soon, with Sainovski and Gosev growing in confidence, the home side began to show signs of getting back into the match. After 27 minutes, they did so

tempt to resolve the team's propensity for undermining its own efforts. It is at home

that vital points have been carelessly tossed away, and

even here they managed to

Gillespie gifted Ukraine a

on in a danger-

goal after just two minutes by

ous area. Vitaliy Kosovsky seized upon the gift to advance

towards goal before producing

a stinging shot that flew into

Gillespie redeemed himself

with a significant part in the

equaliser 11 minutes later. He

skipped down the right and

when Hughes shaped to take

Albania 0; Portugal 0 Germany 0; Albania 0 Ukraine 1; Northern Ireland 0 Portugal 0; Ukraine 2 Northern Ireland 1.

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: Germany v Urraine, Armenia v Northern Ireland May 7: Usrane v Armenia June 7: Portugal v Albania: Usraine v Germany Asig 20: Northern Ireland v Germany: Portugal v Armenia, Ukraine v Albania. Sept 6: Germany v Portugal, Armenia v Albania. Sept 10: Albania v Northern Ireland; Germany v Armenia. Oct 11: Germany v Albania: Portugal v Northern Ireland, Arme-nia v Ukraine

the roof of the net.

find unnecessary adversity.

as Gosev did well to cross under pressure. There was still little danger as Hristov failed to reach the cross, but his jump unsighted McAteer. the ball hit the Liverpool defender's hand and Stojkovski scored his first penalty.

That gave Macedonia belief and something to light for and they began to move forward with real purpose, while Ireland continued to look a shambles. Finally, a flowing move begun by Nikolovski. coming forward from the back, and carried on by

the cross, Luzhnyi handled.

Iain Dowie converted the kick

to take his international tally

to II, just two short of Colin

Hamilton's men began to

threaten an unlikely victory,

but it was the pace of

Shavehenko that carried the

real menace. The Dynamo

Kiev forward is only 20, but

the manner in which he ex-

ploited the leaden tendencies

of the visiting defence showed

maturity. After 71 minutes he

escaped the attentions of

Taggart to poke the ball over

The advancing wingh.

Listaline (4-4-2): O Shortcolly (Dynamo Kier), A Golovice (Dynamo Kier), S Bechenier (Dynamo Kier), S Bechenier (Dynamo Kier), S Bechenier (Dynamo Kier), S Bechenier (Dynamo Kier), S Bernstoll, Distriction (Dynamo Kier), S Kordashi (Chomamoreta: V Kosovski (Dynamo Kier), S Golovic (Dynamo Kier), S Bechoel (Dynamo Kier), S

(Dynamo Kiev).

NORTHERN RIELAND (5-3-2): T Weight (Marchester Cay) — K Gillespie (Newcastle United, sub G McMehon, Stoke City, 82; C Hill (Letoester Cay). G Taggert (Botton Wanderens), S Morrow (Oueers Pair, Rangars), I Notan (Sherheld Wednesday) — N Lennon (Letoester City, sub, J Dumin, Backpool, 78). S Lomas (West Ham United), K Hortock (Manchester Cay) — J Dawler (West Ham United), M Hughee (West Ham United).

the advancing Wright.

Clarke's record.

Phelan flung up his hands to protect himself against a closerange drive, another penalty was awarded, Stojkovski scored again and Macedonia went in at the interval leading.

Worse was to come when Harte, moments after he had replaced Phelan, slipped as he went to intercept Sakiri's driv-en cross, leaving Hristov to collect and beat Alan Kelly with a drive that went in off the underside of the crossbar. Although David Kelly, with perhaps his first kick after coming on as a substitute. scored a second for Ireland,

the match ended bitterly instead of in the rousing finale that the Irish needed.

MACEDONIA (3-5-2) D Gelegiu (FC Macedonia) — G Sediosid (Hadijus Spin) I Nikolovski (Hojal Antwerp), L Manhovski (Nardar Scope) — V Gossev (Salas), R Milosavov (CSNA Soba), D Sainovski (Vardar Scope), subr I Georgnotid, Balkari Azmer, M Stojkovski (Resi Oyecto) A Baldid (Halmsads FF) — G Hristov (Partgeri Belgradie, subr H Beganović Stoga Jugomagnal, 78) D Gizvevski (Veje, subr V Micavaju, KV Mechaler, 87) — IRELAND (3-5-2), A Kelly (Sheffield Umbed)

sub V Micavald, KV Mechalen, 8.7 IRELAND (3-5-2) A Koby (Sheffield Urroad), — D Inwin (Manchester United), G Breen (Coveriny City), S Bissumson (Aston VBa) — J McAtser (Leverpool), A Moducuphin (Portsmouth), R Keenie (Manchester Urriad), A Townsond (Aston VBa), T Photon (Everion, sub 1 Harts Leeds United, 57) — A Cascarino (Mancy, sub; K O'Nell, Norwich City, 48; sub; D Kelly, Sunderland, 76) — J Goodman (Mimbledon) Referen; A Trentalange (taly)

Mexico will present a familiar barrier

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE England Under-18 team will be determined to emulate their senior counterpart after learning yesterday that Mexico are in their group for the world youth championship that will be held in Malaysia

later this year. Glenn Hoddle's team beat Mexico 2-0 at Wembley on Saturday, and the same country at youth level could be the toughest initial challenge for England's youngsters in the tournament, which runs from June 16 to July 5.

The remainder of group F, based in Johor Bahru, sees the Ivory Coast and United Arab Emirates blocking England's hopes of progress.

England topped their table in the preliminary round against Sweden and Latvia in November 1995 and won further matches against Scotland the following spring.

In the final round of qualifying in France, England were second behind Sweden third placed play-off against The top two teams and the

in their group and won the

four best third-place finishers will play a knockout round to determine the quarter-finalists in Malaysia.

Carlos Dunga, the Brazil World Cup winning captain, drew his country's next generation of stars into a tough group alongside the top European qualifiers, France, the leading Asian side. South Korea, and South Africa.

Argentina, the defending champions, were drawn in a relatively weak group E against Hungary, Australia and Canada.

For the first time since the event started in 1977, 24 countries will compete in the finals, with the first match between Malaysia, the host country, and Morocco in group A, which will be played in Kuala Lumpur.

McCall put nto mental spital by court order

OLIVER McCALL, the former World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion, was, vesterday ordered to be detained in a mental hospital after his wife took out an emergency custody order against him.

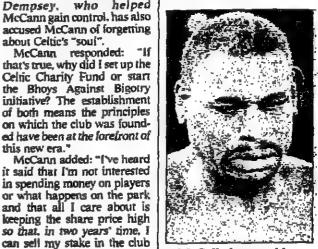
Court documents said that McCall "presents an imminent danger to (him)self or others as a result of mental illness or is so seriously mentally ill as to be substantially unable to care for (him)self.

McCall was arrested in Martinsville. Virginia, on Saturday after his wife took out. the emergency custody order. a police spokesman said.

He was evaluated by a: mental health expert, who restified at a detention hearing. that the boxer was mentally ill and in need of hospitalisation. He was then sent to the Southern Virginia Mental Health institute in Dan-

An involuntary commitment hearing is planned to determine whether he should be held for further observation and evaluation. McCall was placed on

probation for 18 months in December after pleading guilty to possession of marijuana and cocaine in Cook County, Illinois. He was also



McCall: drug problem

arrested in Winston-Salema North Carolina, in early April 1996 and charged with possessing marijuana.

McCall spent time at a North Carolina drug rehabilitation centre in August. At the time, his manager; Jimmy Adams, said McCall wasbeing treated for marijuana and cocaine abuse. "Drugs took over his life, and now he's trying to take his life back," Adams said last summer.

McCall won the WBC title in 1994 with a surprise secondround knockout of Lennox-Lewis, of Britain, After a successful defence of the title against Larry Holmes, in April 1995, he lost a points decision to Frank Bruno five. months later on a memorable night at Wembley Stadium.

In February, McCall brokeinto tears during a return' WBC heavyweight title contest with Lewis, His \$3,075,500 purse is being held by a New Jersey bank, pending an investigation into why he stopped throwing punches? and refused to defend himself: in the fourth round.

At the end of the round he stood and cried in his corner. The referee stopped the bout after 55 seconds of the fifth

CRICKET

Mendis rejects calls for his resignation

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Lanka manager, said yester-day that he will not bow to demands to step down as chief selector. "I continue to be the chairman of the selection committee, and only the minister of sports has the authority to remove me from the post." Mendis said.

Sri Lanka officials were reported on Monday as saying that Mendis was being stripped of his selection duties because his dual role as team manager was a "conflict of interests". However, Mendis, who is managing the one-day cricket world champions in the three-nation Sharjah Cup that starts today, refused to accept that view.

"I have been both manager and chief selector since 1994 and see no conflict of interest. I think one person should hold both posts," he said. "I am also not a paid employee of the board as claimed by some officials. I only get the usual allowances given to a tour manager."

Mendis said that he will continue as manager until the next World Cup in England in 1999 where Sri Lanka will defend the title that they won

DULEEP MENDIS, the Sri last year on the subcontinent.

A mysterious illness has forced Saeed Anwar, the Pakistan opener, to withdraw from the Sharjah tournament. Asif Iqbal, the competition organiser, said yesterday that he had been informed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that Anwar, 30, would "not be playing because he was ill".
"The illness was not speci-

fied so I can't say what exactly is wrong with him. But Saeed has not been keeping well for the past couple of years," Asif said. He will be replaced by Inzamam-ul-Haq, who was left out of the original squad because of poor form. Zimbabwe, who take on Sri

Lanka in the first match of the preliminary league, are also depleted by the absence of David Houghton, the veteran batsman, and Craig Evans, the all-rounder. However, Alistair Camp-

bell, the captain, said: "We have come a long way since we last played here in 1993. The recent success against England is an indicator of that. We will play hard here and I can assure that we will not let the spectators down."

FOOTBALL European qualifying group eight MACEDONIA (2) 3 IRELAND (1) Stalpush 28 Igen), 44 Micloupina 8 (pos) 1 Relly 78 Histor 59 9,000

(1) 2 N FRELAND (1) 1 Down: 14 (past) 70,000

Group one: Bosnia-Herzegowine () Greece
1 (in Sarajevo) Group five: Bulgaria 4
Oppus 1 (in Sofia)
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group five: Bulgaria 3
Oppus 1 (in Sofia)
PORTUGUISSE CUP: Quarter-final:
Berlica 5 Sandinense; 1 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Hungary 1
Australia 3 (in Budapesi) NEHRU GOLD CUP: leag 6 Lighelustan 1 (at Cocher, Indus) Tuesday's late requits

Tuesdey's late results
ELIROPENI UNDER DI CHAMPONI
SHIP: Chasilifying group once 35/16Harcegovine 0 Greece 0 on Sarajevor,
Group two: Potand 1 Italy 1 (in Katowice).
Group two: Potand 1 Italy 1 (in Katowice).
Group two: Scotland 1 Italy 1 (in Katowice).
Group two: Scotland 1 Italy 1 (in Katowice).
Group switch (in Pritoram) Group switch
Turkey 0 Holland 1 (in Istanbul), Groups
eight: Lithuansa 1 Romanus 2 (in Vilnius).
FFR Macadonia 0 treland 4 (in Kavadino).
Group nine; Albania 6 Germany 4 (in
Granada, Span).
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH:
England 0 Switcerland 0 (in Swindon).
NATIONWISE LEAGUE: Income de latione
Bournermouth 0 Stockport County 0 Lucon
Town 2 Bristol Cay 2; Shewisbury Town 2
Burnley 1, Walfall 1 Chesterfield 1 Third
division: Carolil Cay 2 Joseph Town 6;
Odord United 2 Crystal Palace 3 Leegue
Cup: Totlanham Hotspur 1 Queens Paril
Rangers 0.
PONTRY'S LEAGUE: Pramiler offisions

Cup: Tottlerham Holspur 1 Queens Partic Rangers 0.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Transfer Rovers 2 Sheffield Wodnesday 3. First division: Notis County 3 Port Vale 1, Preston 4 Sheffield United 1. Wolverhampton Wanderers 1 Meddlesbraugh 0. ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Unbridge 4 Methow 0. Summit division: Chesturit 1 Metropolitan Police 0. Thurd division: Brantice 3 Aveley 2.

SMETNOFF IRSH LEAGUE Premier de vision: Colorane 1 Gieravon 1, Crusaders 3 Cistorville D' Luriseld 3 Ards 1, Portadown 0 Gieravon 1 First delsion: Carnels 0 Ballymena 2; Ostalery 0 Bellydare 1 MINERVA BOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE Premier delsion: Harperden 1 Arlesey 2, Mitton Kaynes 1 Royston S SCHEWFIX, DIFFECT LEAGUE Premier dellesion: Bristol Manor Farm 2 Westbury 3, Paulton 2 Caino 2.
PORTUGILIESE CLIP: Culture-Engl. Estoci 0 Boardsta 1.

0 Boavesta T.
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: France Under20 2 Sweden Under-21 1 (al Austerre)
MEHRU CUP; India 6 China 0 (at Cochin). PIASEBALL

MATIONAL LENGUE: Morenin 2 St Loue 1; Cricorvali 11 Colorado 4, Florida 4 Cricago 2; Philedelphis 3 Los Angeles 6; Plasburgh 5 San Francisco 2; San Diego 12 New York 5, Houston 2 Adanta 1 AMERICAN LEAGUE: Chicago 6 Toxonio 6 (10hris): Tenas 8 Milwaukee 2; Seatle 4 New York 2; Minhacota 7 Detrolt 5 Pestported; Baltimore v Kensas Cily

BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBAI: New York 94 Cicvetand 85 Mism 97 Los Angeles Cispers 87, Pritodelprim 105 Orlands 93, Los Angels Laliers 95 Seattle 97, Chicago 111 Boston 106, Detroit 105 Dates 82: Weshington 104 Indiana 100; Houston 116 Deniver 99; Golden State 91 Portfand 62; Mismaukee 102 Vancouver 91 EUROLEAGUE: Ouarter-finals, secondi leg: Barcetona (Spl 75 Bologna (il) 73 (1-1

Legaratriada V et siego.
AVOSI INSUVIAMOS COMIRINATION: First clivision: Arsenal v étisiol Floreis (2.0) withstron.EAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Cantesbury & Greenwich (7.45). Heme Bay v Furness, (7.45).

BOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second division: Swindon Town v Southempton (et Southempton, 2 0)

ENDS EIGH MIDLAND COMPLATION: Premier division: Kings Heath v Dawd Lloyd, Mer Ka v Alvochurch, Wallesbourne v Wast Midland Fré Service

idels-off 7.30 unless stated

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

KLALA LUMPUR: ICC Trophy: Group E. Kenya 33-4 (9 overs) v Denmark. March abandoned due to ram. Canada 87-4 (29,4 overs) v Scotland Match abandoned due to ram. Group P: Teland 129 (4) overs). Bangladesh 23-0 (62 overs). Match abandoned due to ram. Hong Kong 170 (47.5 overs). Holland 16-0 (52 overs). Match abandoned due to ram. CYCLING

TROUS JOURS DE LA PANNE BACE. Second stage (222km, Zobegem to Conycle): 1, J Billevens (Floti) Str. 18min Issec: 2, D. Abdovigazow (Lizb); 2, M M Zamoth 80; 5, R McGreen (Aus), 6, F De Bent 10t, 7, F Gust (tr); 8, A de Smet (Belt): 9, J Krisbuu (Est); 10, F Arazz: (II) all samo time Leading overall positions: 1, C Mengin (Fi): 9th Gmm 27sec: 2, M Miseo (II): 81 9sec; 3, J Planchaert (Belt): 36, A, C Bornares (Belt): 37, 5, A Contribentous (Fi): 7, T Hoffman (Hott): 4, H de Clercq (Belt): 9, J Capott (Belt): 10th; 8, H de Clercq (Belt): 9, J Capott (Belt): (High); 8, Hide Clercy (Ball; 9, J Capial (Bel) 10, M Waulers (Bel) gill seme time

MATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL). Buffalo 1 New York Rangers 1 (OT); St Loue 1 Detrot 1 (OT), Tempe Bay 1 Philadelphin 1 (OT), New Jersey 1 Washington 0; Procents 7 San Jase 1, Cheego 3 Arrahem 3 (OT)

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Watton v Diss.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English achools under-19 festhet: Worcestershive v Essections of the Commell y Duffern West Yorkshire: Next Vortshire: West McLads v Dorset: Unconstyre v Hampting: Checkine v Burey: Northumberland v Samasset: Shopshire v Berkshire, gat Paleshetti. Isle of Wight Festivat. Oncaster v Louestoh and Parth Sulfati. Properson v Louestoh and Parth Sulfati. Recherten v Luten; Velle Of Within Horze v Wellingborought: Reading v Walsofletti Blacthum v Newton: West v Gosport and Feminan; Marchasses v Eest Barkshire, life Of Wight v Sheffield. Leads v Derby: Havent v Braction; Graveshern v East Commell;

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford Tigges 12 Bradford Bulls 38, Halder Blue Sox 24 Leetts Rhinos 18; Oldham Bears 22 London Brongos 32 NATIONAL CONFENENCE LEAGUE: Pro-miler division: Wigen St Patricks 21 Leigh Miners 0

RUGBY UNION WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Cardiff 26 Newport 13, Nestin 3 Portypridd 29 SAILING

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Suften United v Aylesbury Second division: Leatherhead v Benstead.

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg (Sydroy to Cape Town, possions at 1404GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town; 1, Group 4 1.161, 2, Toyshba Ware Wester 1,172; 3, Contest 1,185; 4, Commercial Union 1,27; 5, Motorola 1,301; 6, Save The Chifforn 1,311; 7, Global Toatmoti, 1,344; 8, 3Com 1,412; 9, Time 8, Tide 1,482; 10, Occan Flover 1,500; 11, Nuclear Beatic 1,356; 12, Courtautis International 1,701; 13, Psuse To Remember 1,756; 14, Health Insured II 1,779

PLYMOUTH: British Opers Second round (England unless stated): D Date (Wales) bt S Jarres S-2; N Bond br A Hicks S-4, A Hamilton br A Robdoux (Carl) 5-1; P McPhilips (Scot) bt J Ferguson 5-2; W Thome bt D Morgen (Wales) S-4; S Hondry (Scot) bt P Wyles S-1; M Cark br A Botsover 5-3, P Ebdon bt J Miche 5-2, D

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Promier division; Fakerham y Great Yarmouth, Halistead y Hudinigh U; Wanton y Dess.

RUGBY LEAGUE ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Capteline v Hull: Featherstone v Bradford; Oldham v Wasington OTHER SPORT

BASICETBALL: Budweiser Langue: Leopards v Harnel and Wastord (7 0).
SNOOKER: British Open (at Plymouth Faufface).
SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Ipswich v Eastbourne (7 30). Premier Langue Knock Out Cup: Shaffeld v Stade (7 46).
SQUASH: British Open (at Cerdiff)

Harold bt D Taylor (N tre) 5-2 Third round: M Judge (tre) bt D Date (Wales) 5-3; S Hendry (Scot) bt P McPhillips (Scot) 5-4, Harold bt P Sweetly (Engl 5-4

SQUASH

CARDIFF: Leekes British Open: Men: First round: D Jerson (Aus) bt S Parke (GB) 15-7, 15-10, 15-13; D Herrer (GB) bt Z Jahan (Paly 15-8, 13-15, 15-8, 15-5, S Meach (GB) bt Z Jahan (Paly 15-8, 13-16, 15-8, 15-9, 5-3 rer; A Barada (Egypt) bt O E Borolossy (Egypt) 15-0, 7-15, 15-12, 4-15, 15-8. Second round: R Eyles (Aus) bt M Chaloner (Eng) 15-13, 11-15, 15-8, 5-9, Power (Can) bt J Bonelat (Ft) 15-3, 15-2, 15-12. Women: First round: P Bearrer (NZ) bt K Major (Aus) 9-10, 9-1, 9-1, 9-3, C Owens; (Aus) bt V Candwell (Aus) 9-0, 7-9-8, R Cooper (Pus) bt S Cook (NZ) 9-6, 9-5, 5-9, 8-2; M Marrer (Aus) bt J Wison (NZ) 9-7, 9-0, 9-1

TENNIS

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Caroline: Women's lournement: First round: 1) Carolal (US) 6:1 M J Fernanciez (US) 6:2, 4:6, 7-8; B Paulus (Austral) tri 5 Dopler (Austria) 6:0, 6:2; G L Gaross (Sp) bt T Sarissugam (Ind.) 6:1, 6:4, Manaam de Swardt (SA) bt N Zwerewa (Braia) 6:4, 2:1, ret. L Raymond (US) bt L Wild (US) 6:0, 6:1, ret. L Raymond (US) bt L Wild (US) 6:0, 6:1, ret. L Raymond (US) bt L Wild (US) 6:0, 6:1, ret. L Raymond (US) bt L Wild (US) 6:0, 6:1, ret. L Raymond (US) bt L Wild (US) 6:0, 6:1, ret. L Raymond (US) bt L Wild (US) 6:0, 6:1, ret. L Raymond (US) bt L Wild (US) 6:0, 6:3, 6:3, 6:4, 6:3; net. Sariska (US) bt Shi-Ting Weng (Talwan) 6:3, 6:3, C Marinez (Sp) bt O Barabanschilkova (Beta) 6:7, 6:4, 6:3; net. Sprilea (Rom) bt C Torrens-Velero (Sp) 7:6, 6:4, M-Hinge (Swetz) bt 8 Rither (Ger) 6:0, 6:4.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble circums mass 23 pts 23 pts - no chent. 22 pts 32 prozes 23 pts - no chent. 22 pts 32 prozes 258 939,02 pts - 788 prozes of £16 80. 20 pts 7.814 proses of £10 40, 19 pts 58,068 prozes of £2 35. Hall time result 22 pts mass 55 prozes £4,491.00. 4 draws 56 prozes of £5 50. 10 homes paid on nine homes, eight prozes of £24.70. Ptve aways 312 prozes of £21.30. 20 homes paid on nine homes, eight prozes of £224.70. Ptve aways 312 prozes of £21.30. 20 homes paid on nine homes, eight prozes of £230. 20 homes paid on nine homes (£9.55. Super \$10.25. 30,95 pts £10.25. 30,95 pts £10.25. 30,95 pts £10.25. 20,05 pts £10.25. 20,05

CYCLING

1998 Tour to start in Ireland

THE Tour de France will start from Ireland next year, the organisers said in Paris yesterday. Jean-Marie Leblanc, the Tour's director general, and Enda Kenney, Ireland's Minister for Tourism and Trade. will sign the official agreementin Dublin today.

The start will be unusually late, on the weekend of July II: and 12, to avoid clashing with the football World Cup finals in France. The idea of starting the Tour

in Ireland was first mooted in 1994, when the race went through Great Britain. Even. though it has started outside. France 13 times, it will be the first time that it has been launched outside the European mainland. Ireland became a cycling

power in the 1980s thanks to the efforts of Sean Kelly; Winner of the Tour of Spain in : 1988, and Stephen Roche, the 1987 Tour winner. Kelly said: It is a marvellous achievement by the people who have. been trying to bring the Tour here for so long. As sporting: events go, it is huge. It really has to be seen to be believed. It will be a huge task for Ireland to stage it."



Barnes offers

55

SQUASH

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, on the hard-hitting 134th edition of Wisden

England brought to book for attitude problem

brief respite from censure for the England cricket team. Disapproval of their demeanour and deportment has already been voiced in high places since the winter tours ended and now the players are being taken to task by the most revered and influential of sporting publications.

XING

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t order

In the new edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, published today, England are accused of "looking sullen as well as incompetent". The ire of Matthew Engel, the editor of the book. is also extended to the players' employers, with some strident condemnation of the now defunct Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). Claiming,

7 ictory in New Zealand. unashamed immodesty of the it seems, gained only a guaranteed bestseller, to be the world's most famous sports book", the 134th Wisden is, if anything, more accessible and comprehensive than ever - and certainly. with the inclusion of all Test scorecards from England's winter tours, far more up to

> It is also thoughtfully pro-vocative, notably through Engel's editor's notes, where he concludes: "Amid the general global mood of cricketing expansionism. England is a spectacular and potentially catastrophic exception."

Engel goes on: "In 1996-97 the national team reached a point where even the good days were had ... at the 1996 World Cup, the England squad resembled a bad-temtions at European summits have sometimes behaved in similar fashion. Unable to comprehend what was happening - on the field or off it the players just lingered, looking sullen as well as

They conveyed as bad an impression in Zimbabwe at the end of the year. And, though they appeared to have learned to display a little more grace under pressure by the time they reached New Zealand in January, that merely emphasised their carlier petulance."

There is direct criticism of Michael Atherton and David Lloyd, the captain and coach. who "were culpable in failing to understand the importance of their roles as public fig-



SON DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT Cover point: Wisden does not avoid issues

book, this "was hardly sur-prising. Until the end of 1990 they were paid by the TCCB, a body that found public rela-tions so difficult that, for its last couple of years, it simply gave up on the whole business,"

"merely the superficial expression of a far deeper mess". In a couple of withering paragraphs, aimed at disturbing. any complacent contemplation of the proceeds from the Ashes tour this summer. cricket is then compared

wholly unfavourably with football in terms of broad

appeal.
"Play in the Lord's Test was stopped by the roar of delight among the speciators when they heard that England had heaten Spain in the European

> bley is unthinkable.
> The blunt fact is that cricket in the UK has become unattractive to the over-

whelming majority of the

championship quarter-final.

The idea that the reverse

might ever happen at Wem-

perceived as elitist, exclunist and dull."

The chairman of the new England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, is wise and worldly enough to appreciate this opinion, even if he does not wholly agree with it.

Indeed, in a page-long manifesto appropriate to this political week, MacLaurin echoes such fears. There are some amber lights flashing over our game and we have to respond," he says.

"We're prepared to talk to the counties about issues that, in the past, might have been filed under "too hard" - the amount of one-day cricket, uncovered wickets, two divisions, anything. Perhaps we will have a more radical agenda than people expect."

MacLaurin being more faithful to his promises than others issuing manifestos this week.

Another indicator of England's parlous position in the game is the absence of a single home-qualified player from Wisden's five Cricketers of the Year — only the fourth time this has occurred.

Sachin Tendulkar, the India captain, gains the honour along with Mushtaq Ahmed and Saeed Anwar, of Pakistan. Sanath Jayasuriya, of Sri Lanka, and the West Indian Phil Simmons, who is at least recognised for his part in helping Leicestershire to win the Britannic Assurance county championship.

☐ Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 1997 Hohn Wisden. 526 hardback).

pered grandmother attending

GOLF: OLAZABAL STRIDING CONFIDENTLY TOWARDS AUGUSTA

Illness puts Masters place in doubt for Ballesteros

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN NEW ORLEANS

THE comeback of José Maria Olazabal, so far restricted to Europe and the Middle East, moves to the United States this morning when he competes in the Freeport McDermott Classic, in New Orleans.

As Olazábal, the 1994 Masters champion, prepared for only his fourth tournament since he returned to competitive golf, so the travails of Severiano Ballesteros, his countryman, continued. Ballesteros has withdrawn from this event and his participation in the Masters next week is in doubt.

He arrived in Louisiana on Monday looking grey and sounding nasal and miserable. He had a stinker of a cold and had been taking antibiotics for three days. When he got to the English Turn golf club yesterday morning to compete in the pro-am. Ballesteros felt so rotten he sought out a

Ballesteros "has classic cold and flu," Dr Marshall St Amant said. "I have put him

on antibiotics. He needs to go to bed. He needs lots of water and he should be better within one week." Ballesteros, who will be 40 next Wednesday. said: "I have a high temperature and I don't feel very good. I would like to go home. but I don't make decisions as quickly as that. The most important thing is to be healthy. I will give it all the time I can. The year can only

get better. Olazábal, in contrast, is growing more confident with every day that passes. His feet



Olazabal: stronger

painful since his return to competitive play at Dubai in February after an 18-month lay-off. "The progress is slow but there is always improve-

ment," Olazabal said. "I am able to play two weeks in a row, but I am not going to attempt more than that in the immediate future." Olazábal finished twelfth in Dubai, a remarkable performance that included a round of 65. Two weeks later, he finished fourth in the Portu-

guese Open and then came victory in the Turespaña Masters, in the Canary Islands, the week before last. Even Olazabal was surprised at that, "The pictures you saw of me on TV were very unusual," he said. "I have

never cried on a golf course

pefore. They were tears of

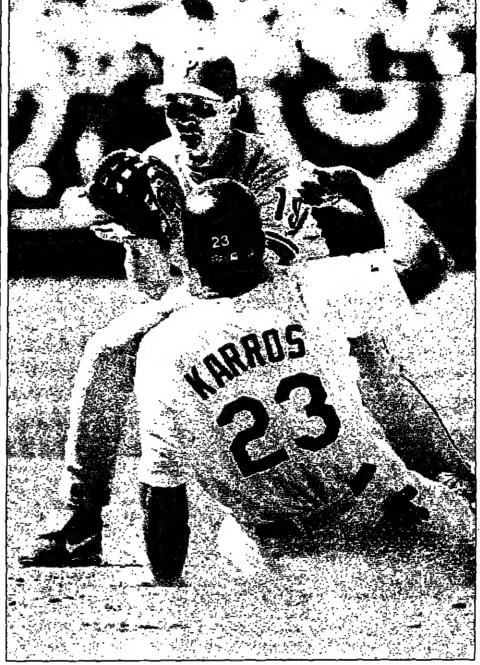
English Turn golf club, designed by Jack Nicklaus, is laid out on the banks of the Mississippi, 15 miles from the centre of New Orleans. It has water on 17 holes and is as flat as a tabletop. It gets its name from the occasion when French troops ambushed Brit-

English Turn should cause Olazabal, who finds walking on the flat relatively easy, linle discomfort, but Augusta National golf club, which has hardly a level hole, is a different matter. There is a difference of 100 feet between the 10th tee and the 11th green. the highest and lowest points on the course.

Still, just to be there will be momentous for the Spaniard. At this time last year he was lying on a couch at home. worried that he might never walk again. He moved around by crawling from place to place. His spirits could scarcely have been lower.

"In any major championship you want to be there," Olazabal recalled. "The Masters, the US Open, the Open, whatever it is.

You have earned the right to be there. It is tough to have to watch it on TV. I don't know what to expect next week, but I shall go to the clubhouse again and soak up the atmosphere. It will be very special next week to be at Augusta after last year."



Kevin Stocker, the Philadelphia Phillies shortstop, keeps his eye on the ball as the curtain rises on the new baseball season in

CRICKET

Bangladesh

rue luck

of the Irish

THE folly of planning the quarter-final group matches of the ICC Trophy without the

pondent writes).

mum 20 overs.

and Ireland will join one of

them in the semi-finals if they

avoid defeat by Hong Kong.

Los Angeles, Eric Karros is out and the Dodgers shut out, 3-0 - failing to score on the opening day for the first time in 27 years.

Shivering Horner feels chill of defeat

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE move of the Leekes British Open championships onto the transparent Perspex showcourt at the Wales National Ice Rink in Cardiff yesterday proved a chilling experience for England's senior woman player, Suzanne Horner, of Yorkshire.

Horner, 34, played the first two games of her second-round match against Linda Charman in her tracksuit. picked up a muscle injury in a second-game tumble, fought back courageously to a fifthaway a loser, beaten 9-3, 9-3, 8-10, 5-9, 9-1 in 58 minutes.

"My foot was really hurting in the fifth game." Horner said. "It might not have been a problem at all in warmer conditions with the muscles loosening sooner."

The problem on a court mounted directly over a covered but still frozen icehockey is generating muscle flexibility quickly enough. Surprisingly, the ball flies fast and true, which means complete court movement is essential at once.

At other ice rinks, where the surface is laid over concrete, events are mounted after complete defrosting, but the Cardiff rink was laid on sand more than a decade ago and has been frozen hard ever since. Defrosting would simply create a sea of sludge.

Charman, 25, the England No 3, who was quicker to adjust to the conditions, moved through to a quarterfinal against Sue Wright, 26, the British national champion from Kent, who survived a bruising five-game encounter with Rebecca Macree, of

Macree, the profoundly deal England No 7, took her line from Charman's enthusiastic performance and attacked from the first rally. She took a two-game lead and seemed set for the best win of her career until she hit a loose drive hard into Wright's thigh at 3-4 in

the third game.
As often happens after such on-court incidents, it was Macree, who received a penalty stroke for an interrupted drive, whose concentration became shaky. Wright, a renowned battler, who as a 20-year-old removed the three top seeds from this championfinal to Lisa Opie, had the toehold for a typical fightback.

Rodney Eyles, 29, the Australian No 2 seed, who is extremely protective of an ankle that once threatened to remove him from the game. made an understandably subdued start against Mike Chaloner, of Lincoln, before advancing 15-13, 11-15, 15-8,

Barnes offers Daly medicine

BRIAN BARNES has every sympathy for the predicament of John Daly, Barnes, a recovering alcoholic, now neither drinks nor smokes and is relishing the new lease of golfing life that the US Senior Tour has given him.

As he prepared to make his debut in The Tradition tournament, at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Arizona, today Barnes said: "John's done the right thing. The first thing an alcoholic must do is admit there's a problem and I think it's the first time John's really admitted that to himself."

Daly is undergoing treatment for his alcoholism at the Betty Ford Clinic in Palm Springs, California, after issuing a statement admitting to his problems. Barnes, who

CYCLING

1998 Toul

to start in Ireland

Patricia Davies meets a man with some

words of wisdom for a troubled golfer

has not touched a drop since January 22, 1993, said: "He's now got to go through the process of rehabilitation. If his doctor says it'll take six, eight or ten weeks or six

months, he's got to do it. about alcoholism because he didn't ask and it's a waste of time giving advice unless the alcoholic wants to hear about it, but I'll probably write to him and congratulate him. He's got a lot to offer the world

of golf and people in general.
It was great chatting to

"I haven't spoken to him

John at the Open at Lytham last year. He played either just

ahead of me or just behind me in each round but we were never paired together. I was joking with him on the putting

green and I said if we were together in the final round, I'd get a large vodka bottle and fill it up with water and give it to him to have a swig when he got into trouble. But that would probably just have got him into more trouble." Barnes emphasised that

Daly must realise that he will never drink again. This from the man who, at one stage, would start the day with several large coffee cognacs and chase them down later with numerous pints of beer and quantities of vodka and orange, it would make a normal mortal sick to think about it, but that was part of the problem. Barnes's capacity was unbelievable and he

never had a hangover. He was also an amiable drunk, with none of Daly's reported belligerence. "My wife will say that I was never impossible to live with." Barnes, who has been married to Hilary for nearly 30 years. said. "My fellow pros knew l liked a drink but they never realised I'd become an alcoholic."

Barnes, who ended up so depressed that he contemplated suicide, still gets the shivers when he thinks of one particular incident. It happened just after his stint recovering in hospital. He was driving home from the golf club in West Chiltington. Sussex, when a child of about



literally - of hitting the child. "He was white as a sheet, I was as white as sheet and if it had happened five weeks earlier that child was dead because my reactions would have been at least that inch slower. There's definitely somebody up there looking after me," Barnes said.

He also has a minder on the ground — Phil Ramm, a friend from home, who has given up his job to caddle for Barnes. And when the other professionals ask if life can be worth living with no drinking, no smoking and a wife living several thousand miles away. Barnes has no hesitation in savine, "Damn right it is".



five cycled out in front of him.

Barnes came within an inch -

The Dutch can salvage a place in the last four by beating Bangladesh tomorrow

After all, he is securing his. and his family's, future.



Aside from Ireland gaining ...and yachtsmen should get ready to change course. Dynamically point they did not deserve. the real beneficiaries were designed, and written by people with a passion for sailing, Sailing Holland, who would almost certainly have been out of the Today will help you get the most out of your boat for the least cost tournament had Bangladesh



 John Goode's Sailing Skills only in Sailing Today Plain-talking, easy-to-follow, technical features

Objective, star-rated, new product reviews

 Ports of call – where to go, how and why Unique step-by-step maintenance articles

THE MALE PILL BEAT HEART ATTACKS GQ ACTIVE — THE MAGAZINE FOR WINNERS

Beardsley counts blessings as marathon's accidental hero



here will be many moments of magic in the Flora London Marathon next week, but it will be hard to beat the finish of the first London race in 1981.

There, the joint-winners, Dick Beardsley, from America's Midwest, and Inge Simonsen, from Norway, crossed the line hand in hand, in a gesture of sportsmanship that put their picture straight on to the front pages.
The two runners seemed to glide to

the tape effortlessly in 2hr 11min 48sec. the fastest run seen in England at that rime, and Beardsley was soon to show that he had plenty in hand. In the Boston marathon the following year, he came second in a legendary photofinish with Alberto Salazar in 2hr 8min 54sec - still the third-fastest run by an American.

Beardsley was hailed as a true American hero. Blessed with an easy. outgoing personality, he was much in demand as an athlete and a speaker, and the young man who had every-thing reckoned himself truly lucky.

These days, lo years on, he still considers himself lucky - lucky that he is not in prison, lucky that he is still alive and lucky that he can run a few steps, if only for 15 minutes at a time.

Last Friday. Beardsley, now 41, was up before a Minnesota court for sentence after pleading guilty to forgery. He faced a possible prison term for writing prescriptions on a doctor's pad for more than 1,600 controlled painkillers. He was given 240 hours community service and a \$1,000 fine.

Beardsley's marathon fall from grace resulted from a catalogue of accidents that started in 1989 while working on a tractor at home on his farm. "I got caught up in a rotating shaft and almost had my left leg torn off at the knee," he said. "I was really lucky - twice they were going to amputate. " He may have been lucky to have lived, but he was left with a mangled leg, severe knee injuries, a broken wrist cracked ribs and a punctured lung.

Two weeks after the accident, his leg became infected and he was given more surgery and heavy doses of painkillers. Incredibly, he dreamed of a comeback to risnning and did endless leg lifts as he lay on his hospital bed.

By 1992, he had built up his strength enough to return to his farmwork and



Beardsley, left, and Simonsen cross the line together in London in 1981

get back to his running. But it was while he was driving back from a race with his wife, Mary, and son, Andy, that Beardsley suffered the first of three more life-threatening accidents.

His car was rammed on the driver's side by a motorist who had gone through a stop sign. Beardsley's car was smashed off the road into a ravine, and while his wife and son escaped uninjured, he was back in hospital with spinal and shoulder injuries and pumped full of more painkillers.

He came out unable to cope with the tough labour of farming and got a job as, a farm reporter for a local radio station. Six months after his ican had - obtae and head injuries.

been written off, Beardsley, still trying to come back as an athlete, went for a run in the snow and was struck from behind by a hit-and-run driver.

He was back in hospital, this time for 16 days, with neck and back injuries. Three weeks later, at home, he became dizzy, passed out and fell down 15

The pain did not stop, and neither did the accidents. Just a month later, Beardsley lost control of his car in a blizzard and it flipped over several times before landing upside down. He had to be cut free from the vehicle and this time he suffered fractured yertescrews holding his back together, and with running out of the question, he grew ever more dependent on painkillers. When his father died of cancer last summer, Beardsley scoured the house for any painkillers left unused. The pressure on him grew worse as his son, Andy, so distressed by his grandfather's death, attempted suicide.

When his ransacked supply of painkillers dried up, Beardsley took to writing his own prescriptions. After three months of forgeries, he was exposed by a pharmacist in September

He said he was relieved to get caught and lucky to be given help to fight his addiction. Beardsley's belief that, despite all his troubles, he is "lucky" even prompted him to write a song about himself, called "Lucky", while lying on a hospital bed.

"It seemed like every time I walked outside, something happened," he said.



In The Times on Monday: a 16-page colour guide to the Flora London Marathon

"But the song 'Lucky' is about how lucky I am to have had the life I've had. the friends I've had, to have God in my life. I think about the song every day."

Beardsley is a man who does not give up easily and even after all he has been through, the glowing memories he has of the marathon still threaten to flicker back to life. Two weeks ago, for the first time in 18 months, he did a little running. It was only two miles, and he says he is taking both his life and his running just 15 minutes at a time.

If he could defy all that has been thrown at him and drag his battered legs back to tackle the London Marathon, he could be sure of a great welcome.

There would be plenty who would be proud to line up alongside him. And there would be many more who would consider themselves lucky indeed to join hands at the finish with the remarkable marathon man, Dick Beardsley.

JOHN BRYANT

A new taste of the Orient uncy Lam unnel 5, 8.00pm time to meet the latest in the long line of the colors. Name V Tooks, Name V Tooks

Nancy Lam Channel 5, 8.00pm

It's time to meet the latest in the long line of wacky TV cooks, Nancy Lam is as oriental as her name suggests and her speciality is, as you may have guessed, oriental cuisine. But unless Delia Smith is the host, cookery programmes tend to be more about style than substance. Lam is billed as an original, yet almost all her trademarks have been inherited. She is a fat lady and the BBC has two of them. She is assisted by a meek husband whom she routinely chides, an echo of Fanny and Johnny Cradock. She talks to the cameraman in the manner of Keith Floyd and, like Gary Rhodes, she praises her own creations. It is, though, hard to remember a cook who is cheeky to the diners in her restaurant. If you remember Lam for her performance rather than her dishes, that is how

Mad About Machines: My Life with Dennis Channel 4, 8.00pm

Dennis is not a person but for Malcolm Hemley he might just as well be. On Malcolm's 17th birthday, his father presented him with a Dennis motorised lawn-mower. This 1925 model became not only a prized possession in itself but the start of a Dennis collection which now numbers 33. In case you think there is nothing to Malcolm's life except old lawn-movers, the film reveals that he is a devoted son. He nursed his late father through cancer and now lives with, and looks after, his 83-year-old mother. But when human needs have been met, it is off to the huge shed in his Dorset garden which houses his cherished mowers. Sadly Malcolm's 1925 model is hors de combat, lacking an essential part. Perhaps there will be somebody watching who is able to supply it.

Horizon: Silent Children, New Language BBC2, 9.30pm

The Jamesons' Farewell Night

Radio 2, 10.30pm

The starting point of Judith Bunting's densely argued film is a group of deaf children in Nicaragua who created their own sign language. The achievement was noteworthy in itself but of even greater interest in repoening the debate about whether language is a biological instinct or copied from the surrounding world. There are formidable

RADIO 1

7,00mm Mark Radcliffe, includes Navebest 9.00 Date Pearce 12.00 Jo Whiley, includes at 12.30pm Newsbest 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 8.15 Newsbest 2.00 Evening Session with Steve Lampacq 8.30 John Peal 10.30 Mary Anna Hobbs 1.00mm Dave Pearca 4.00am Cive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00mm Sárah Kennsdy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Alex Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debble Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The News Flucidines 7.30 David Alian 8.00 Paul Jones 10.00 Dr Rock Meets Jerry Lee Lewis (\$43) 10.30 The Jamesons' Farawel Night, See Choica 12.65am Charles Nove 3.00 Alex Léster

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00em Morning Reports 5.00 The Breaklest Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Middley with Mair 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Edita 7.35 On the Line 8.00 Inside Edge with Rob Bonnet 9.00 SportsAmerica

with Alton Byrd 9.30 Sportshop with Adnan Goldberg 18.00

priam hayes a baction ingrit, industs 11.100 news but 11.10 Financial World Tonight 12.00 After Hours — Early Call with Vincent Hanne 2.00ers Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO



The cook Nancy Lam (Channel 5, 8.00)

authorities on both sides of the fence. Back in the 1950s the American linguist Noam Chomsky was arguing that children created language from nothing. He repeats this claim here. The film follows the work in Nicaragua of another linguist. from the United States, Judy Kegl, as she tests and develops Chomsky's argument. It may come as no surprise to discover that the matter is far from simple and while Kegl has delved further into it than most she still cannot pronounce the final word.

Northern Exposure Channel 4, 10.35pm

After a short break we are back among the citizens of the dead end town of Cicely, Alaska. The point: about Northern Exposure, apart from the quirky humour made more effective for being delivered in such a deadpan manner, is that the equilibrium is never disturbed. Or if it is, it is soon restored. We have two examples tonight. Maurice (Barry Corbin), the timber tycoon, wants to pass the business on to his young cousin, also called Maurice. It is giving nothing away to reveal that Maurice junior proves a huge disappointment. The potentially bigger upheaval is the departure of Rolf Morrow's Dr Joel to Russia. Moreover he is taking Morrow's Dr Joe to Russia, indicave the Bandage Maggie (Janine Turner) with him. But it is a Russian plane they choose and on top of language difficulties take-off is more than a little delayed:

Peter Waymark

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RADIO CHOICE

Opera Matinee: Hamlet Radio 3, 1.00pm

Love him or hate him. Derek Jameson has certainly made his mark on Radio 2. There has been nobody quite like him, and I don't see anyone on the horizon who can be expected to say the kind of things he says, at least not in the way he says of finings he says, at least not in the way he says them. During the past five years, his wife Ellen has kept him company at the Radio 2 microphone. Tonight is their valediction. From next Monday night, Richard Allinson takes over their show. Bidding the Jamesons a fond farewell tonight are some of the entertainers and programme makers who have appeared on their show. They include Jim Davidson, Barry (Dame Edna) Humphries, Ken Bruce, Su Pollard and the Wikoxes, Desmond

Prompted by this transmission of Ambroise Thomas's opera, recorded last September at the Grand Theatre in Geneva, I did some research into a work I did not know existed. Perhaps its most dramatic departure from Shakespeare's text is that it ends not with the prince's death, but with him on the Danish throne. I would have expected Hamles to be sung by a tenor. Thomas gave the role to a baritone, and Humphrey Searle followed his example in his 1968 opera. Both he and Thomas gave the tenor role to Laertes. For the record, there have been six Hamlet operas, the first being by Mercadante in 1882. In the title role tonight is Simon Keenlyside, with the soprano Natalie Dessay as Ophelia.

Peter Davaile

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30cm Europe Today (11/12) 7.30 The World Today 8.15 Off the Shell 9.10 Pausa for Thought 9.15 Cencert Hall 10.15 Farming World 10.30 BBC English 10.46 Sports Roundup 11.30 One Planet 12.30pm; Sports International 1.05 Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Mergame 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 Performance 4.30 Everyworman 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 World Today 6.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.30 The Works 8.01 Outlook 8.30 Multitrack X-Press 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 On Screen 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.01em Outlook 11.30 Multitrack 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Omnibus 3.30 Meridian Books 4.05 World Business 4.15 Sport

CLASSIC FM

4.00mm Marki Gdiffiths 7.66 Milds Read 9.00trBettd Göld Classics 10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Lunchtime Concerto, Brahms (Violin Concerto in D major Op 77) 3.00 Nick Balley 7.00 Classic Newsrught with John Brunning 7.30 Sonata, Besthoven (Flano Sonata No 17 in D minor Op 31 No 2) 8.00 Classic DM Evening Concert Brahms (Flano Concert No.1 in Classic DM Evening No.1 in Classic DM Evening Research No.1 in Classic DM Evening No.1 in Classic DM Evening Research No.1 in Classic DM Evening No.1 in Classic DM Even Classic FM Evening Concert. Brahms (Plano Concerto No 1 in 10.00 Michael Mappin, Includes 11.35 Noctume 2.00 Lunchame Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO 6.00em Fluss 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jaremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00em Randal

Symphony Orchestre, under Yakov Kreixberg, With Lym Harrell, cello. Ravel (Une Barque sur l'Ocean): Dutilleux (Tout un Monde Lointain) 8.15 : Rachmaninov Revisited 8.35 Concert, pert 2. Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor) 9.45 The Sound of Massixs. Sir Peter Hall explores the world of masks, from ancient Greece to the

5.00em Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Torriny Boyd 4.00 Paler Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00em Ian Collins

6.00em On Air, with Andrew MecGregor, includes Heinlichen (Concerto in F. Serenala die Moritburg); Franck (Symphony in D minor); Wegner (Ol Du Mein Holder Abendstern, Tamrihauser); Bech (Brandenburg Concerto No 5 in D); Tailis (Spern in Allum); Stanford (Clannet Concerto in A minor)

Alum); Stanford (Clannet Concerto in A minor)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Permy Gore, Includes
Rameau (Le Turc Genereux; Les Incas de Perou);
Hisydn (Plano Trio in B ffatt); Ravel (Schéhérezade); Rimsky-Korsakov (Plano Concerto)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Stephanie Hughes,
includes Mozart, ar Busoni (Overture, The Magic
Flute); Beethoven (Variations on Ein Marichen
oder Weitochen); Villa-Lobos (Bachtana Braseleira
No 4); Kabalevsky (Cello Concerto); Glezunov
(Symphony No 4 in E flat)
12.00 Composer of the Weetc Amy Beach, with Chris
Whes, Includes Beach (Ballad), Op 6; Three
Please, Op 40; Hute Quintet, Op 80, Theme and
Variations)

variauoris, variauoris Matinée: Hamier. See Choice. With Simon Keenlyside, barizone, Natalie Dessay, soprano, Geneva Grand Theatre Chorus, Suisse Romande Orchestra under Louis Langree 125 Samuel Scheidt. A profile of the composer

whose file centred eround Halle John Scott, organ. Scheldt (Vater Unser, Bergamasca, Toccata: In Te Domine Speram)

5.00 Music Machine. Sarah Walker visits Clarke Hall in Wakefield where she is taken on a musical tour of the house as it may have been in the 17th Century
5.15 In Turre, with Brian Morton. Includes Liszt
(Csardas Obstine); Beethoven (Variations on God
Save the King, WoO 78): Brahms (Alto Rhapsody)
7.30 Sounding the Century: Rechmaninov. Live from
the Guildhall in Southampton. The Bournemouth

Music Restored, Andrew Manze Introduces to second of two programmes in which the New London Consort, with Catherine Bott, soprano Christopher Robson, countertenor, and Michae George, bass-baritone, under Philip Pickett, perform chamber cantatas by Telemann

present day (3/4) 10.00 Music Restored. Andrew Manze Introduces the

periorm charities or cantains by leternarin

10.45 Night Waves. Bill Budrot, literary and fiction editor
of The New Yorker, delivers his regular letter from
New York. Humphrey Carpenter investigates
political commitment to the arts and the promises
being made by the political parties before the
torthooming general election

11.30 Composers of the Medic Margan (c)

11.30 Composers of the Weelc Mozert (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Campbell Burnap. Features a selection of new releases including two tributes to the composer, planist and arranger, Tadd

Dameron

1.00 Through the Night, with David Cornet, Includes
1.00 Choral Evensong (f) 2.00 if Tempo
Ensemble Corelli (Concerto Grosso in D. Op 6 No
4); Tarthri (Violan Concerto in A); Locatelli
(Concerto in F for Four Violins, Op 4 No 12);
Baculewisk (Amitineton III); Locatelli (Concerto
Grosso in D, Op 1 No 5); Lecteir (Sonsta in C
milnor, Op 5 No 8; Violan Concerto in D, Op 10 No
3) 3.25 Suttigent Radio Symphony Orchestra,
under Gary Bertini, Zimmermann (Ich Wandte
Mich); Mahler (Symphony No 1) 5.00 Sequence

5.55cm Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.40 Recing Pigs and Giant Manows (4/5)

Nears 9.05 The Moral Maza. A discussion series chaired by Michael Buerk. With guests David Cook, Janet Deley, Michael Mansfield, QC, and Dr David Starkey 10.00 News; One Bright Child (FM), by Patricia Cumper, With Ben Thomas and Dona Croll (3/5) 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Wendy Austin 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent, Reports from

11.30 From Our Own Correspondents reports from
BBC correspondents from around the world
12.00 News; You and Yours, Consumer news and
current afteins with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Foul Play. The last in the series of the murder
mystery panel game. With Simon Brett and the
writers Gavin Lyall and Anthony Price 12.55
Westber

Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Second Chance, by Sue Rockell. An apparently ideal couple's lives are turned upside down when their beby son disappears from outside a supermarket. With Perrny Layden and Richard Demington

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Russell Davies and quests.

and guests

News 4.05 Kaleldoscope. Lynn Welker telks to
the composer James Macmillan and reviews

Villette, a stage version of Charlotte Bronte's story.
Plus a review of recordings of music by two wish composers who were imprisoned in the wartime transit camp at Terezin

4.45 Short Story: The Surprise, by Julia Stoneham. Read by Anthony Bate
5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50
Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Stx O'Clock News
6.30 Harry Hill's Fruit Comer. A series by the offbeat? Comedian. With Bert Kwouk, Edna Dore. Al Murray and Martin Hyder (3/6)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 In Paradise. Noah Richter visits Japan (3/4)
8.00 Analysis. The first in a new series of the programme which examines the thinking behind. Dublic policy and changes in society around the world. Peter Keliner Charles a discussion on the British economy

wond. Peter Kelliner chairs a discussion on the British economy

8.45 Death In Essex. The first of three talks by a woman in search of work. Sara Monk has a degree, work experience and no job (1/3)

9.00 Does He Talks Sugar? The programme made for and by, people with disabilities. Presented by Frederick Dove

9.30 Kellidoscoper (n. p. 50 Westler

9.30 Kaleldoscope (f) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with leabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sorcerer's Apprentice, by Frank O'Connor. Part one of two, read by

11.00 Thirty Minute Theatre: Sex. Spies and Laver Bread, by Tracy Spottiswoode. Wales has become an independent republic, and the English. eren't taking any chances (r)
11.30 Utopia and Other Destinations. Sir Kenneth

Calman explains his idea of Utopia (3/6) (?)

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Wasp Factory, by lein Banks. Read by Joseph McFadden (9/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.46; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 893, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am); CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.

WORD-WATCHING Answers from page 47

LAMPREL (a) Some fish resembling the lamprey. According to R. Holme, the lamprey at a certain stage of growth. From the French lamprillon. Izaak Walton, The Complete Angler, 1653: "Fish. whose shape and nature are much like the Eel, namely the Lamprei, the Lamprey, and the Lamperne."

a) A kind of melon. From the Greek word for an apple + a kind of gourd. "Their Macocks are a sort of Melopepones, or lesser MYGALE

(c) The shrew-mouse. Also the bird-spider, a genus of large, hairy spiders of America. From the Greek mugale. "The sacred animal of Buto is said to have been the mygale or shrew-mouse."

(a) Loobylike; awkward, clumsy, lubberly. From the Teutonic words lob and lubber a lout. "It's enough to put any young lady in her pouts, to force her to marry a great loobily Yorkshire tyke."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE (after 1 Nxd7) i ... Bxg21 and White loses, as if 2 Rg! Bb4+ and the white

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Hendry plans a work-to-rule

SNOOKER

By PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY, coolness personified when the heat is on, maintained his challenge for the British Open title by reaching the quarter-finals with a dramatic 5-4 victory over Paul McPhillips at Plym-

Hendry, successful in nine of the ten final-frame finishes in which he has been involved this season, constructed a green-to-black clearance to secure victory, despite an awkward placement of the colours.

"Paul outplayed me for lengthy periods of the match and probably deserved to win. but I was proud of that clearance." Hendry, who calmly rolled the black across the top cushion into a corner

McPhillips, of Glasgow, took advantage of Hendry's sluggish start to lead 2-0, but the world champion recovered to lead 4-2. McPhillips reof 126 in the seventh frame before adding the eighth in farcical circumstance

Leading 66-39. McPhillips failed to lay a snooker on the yellow behind the brown and left a free ball. Hendry then suffered a brainstorm. He potted the green, erroneously believing he could subsequently pot a colour of his choice before concentrating his attention on the vellow.

in fact, Hendry should have attempted to pot the yellow immediately after the free ball. so when he sank the green a second time, the referee, Eirian Williams, called a foul shot. At first shocked, the realisation of his mistake then spread across the face of an embarrassed Hendry.

McPhillips duly cleared yellow to blue and, holding a 43-22 advantage in the ninth frame. would have left Hendry requiring snookers had he not narrowly failed to sponded positively with a run

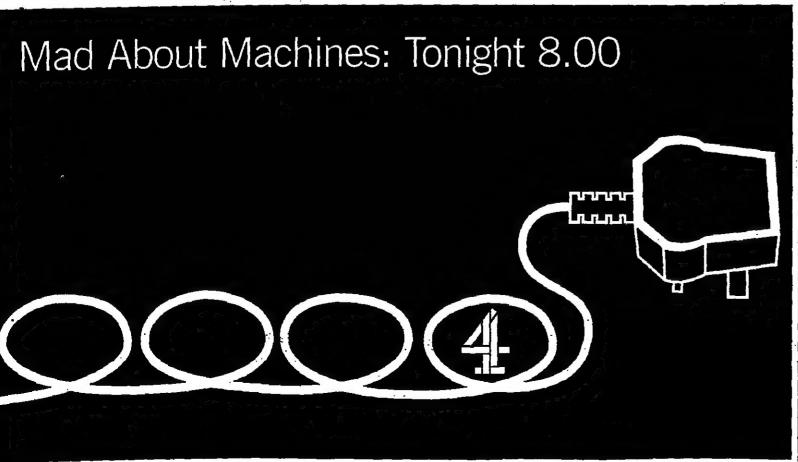
double the green to a middle

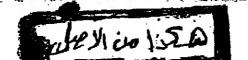
"It would have been a big blow to lose," Hendry, who is attempting to capture his sixth title of the season, said. "I'm going back to the practice table and I'll certainly take another look at the rulebook." Hendry, winner of the tour-

nument in 1988 and 1991, goes forward to meet Dave Harold. the No II seed, who was also fully extended before edging past Paul Sweeny, Bexleyheath, 5-4.

Sweeny, the world No 201. fought back from 3-2 down to lead 4-3 with breaks of 71 and 64 and was on the threshold of success when he initiated the scoring in the eighth by compiling a run of 54. Harold eventually produced a 31 clearance, including an excellent closing black, before prevailing in a tense decider.

Results, page 48







Mucking about, mucking in and, er, muck

ngus Deayton's Before
They Were Famous, shown
on Easter Monday, has had a devastating effect on normal viewing. Once you have seen a seenage Clint Eastwood in a milk commercial, or a ghoulishly grinning Jeremy Irons in striped loonpants on Playaway, every new face in a minor presenting job now looks like a future celebrity just gamely carving out embarrassment for his old age. Take Paul Hawkins, the startling co-presenter of Channel 5's Great Garden Game, which kicked off last night. Coiffed white hair, cherubic face. camp accent, palpable unease — this show is his stepping stone, surely. It is the bad dream that will

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one day come back to haunt him. Meanwhile, is it a bad dream for the rest of us? The answer is to sit bolt upright and yell "Aaaagh!" while batting the air with your arms. No, no, I'm exaggerating.

that's the territory. Last night, two three-person teams of anonymous Men Behaving Badly) starred in the two-hour hokum-iest The Vanpasty-legged simpletons (a red team and a blue team) competed to dig up grass paths at Bowood House, and re-lay them with gravel. And yes, that was it. Half an hour of cheap back-breaking labour dressed up as entertainment, with no earthly means of judging the rival efforts at the end, and no whiff of a decent prize. Whatever persuaded the dolts to take part? Already in Hell they are ordering The Great Garden Game, partly because it's given them ideas for sports day, but mainly because it's ideal for the terminal dejection of the damned.

Meanwhile, on ITV, young Paul's future prospects notwithstanding, the Angus Deayton prin-ciple was turned on its head. It's much more alarming to see the questionable role-choices of people after they were famous than before. Neil Morrissey (Tony in

ishing Man, and to be honest, one's nervousness on behalf of a faltering career trajectory swept most other feelings aside. Is an invisible-man part really right for you. Neil? Do you have a firm hand on the controls? The Vanishing Man began with Morrissey flying a small aircraft through a thunderstorm, with a crate of plutonium leaking ominously in the hold. And as a symbol, well, it was hardly reassuring.

B ut to be fair, the second hour of this "comedy-thriller" somehow redeemed the first; personally, I was by then too exhausted to raise any more objections, and in any case felt safely cocooned in the telly equivalent of flavoured custard. Like drowning. The Vanishing Man was pleasant once you ceased to struggle. Nick Cameron (MorREVIEW



Lynne Truss

rissey) had been a volunteer simpleton in a far-fetched research experiment, and now turned invisible when naked and wet. Thus he was well-placed to get revenge without anybody noticing. The special effects were great, of course. Morrissey was perfectly good, too. Let's just hope the kiddies were allowed to stay up late (it's the holidays, after all). With its obvious affinity to such

cult 1960s series as Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased), the script of The Vanishing Man declared itself to be the work of Anthony Horo-witz of Crime Traveller fame, a chap who has hijacked those enjoyable, escapist shows quite adroitly. The flaw in his homage, however, is the lack of archness that flippancy of The Avengers, which undermined the silliness, and reassured adults they weren't wasting their time on kids' stuff. As a motiveless baddie, however, Barbara Flynn struck the perfect dastardly note last night, especially when waving an invisible gun (nice touch).

But what really hurt about The Vanishing Man was the thin vein of jokes - when the situation had such endless potential for wit and surprise. On the soundtrack, we gor I Ain't Got No Body, but otherwise the best moment was when an unseen Nick chatted to his new girlfriend, and then suddenly appeared, from off-screen, fully clothed. It tricked the viewer, and it was dever.

isewhere, Army of Innocents (BBCI) continued the theme of exploited labour. while so did Modern Times: Dirty Work (BBC2). Army of innocents was the much-trailed history of National Service, which started off rather blandly with celebrities telling nightmare tales of basic training - John Peel, Michael Aspel, the late Willie Rushton but then evoked more gloomy memories of Korea, where 200 conscripts died in combat, and others were taken prisoner by the Chinese. Such wild divergence of experience made for a strange programme. Hard to enjoy John Peel's reminiscences of office skiving, for instance, when another poor chap was recollecting the day he shot a peasant.

Finally, Dirty Work was another

together. While the actress Sue Johnston intoned solemn "verse" in voice-over ("Our debris never stops accumulating". Lucy Sand-ys-Winsch's beautifully photo-graphed film introduced us to cleaners of various sorts - a daily. a lav lady, a night-time street sweeper, a gay couple with feather dusters - none of whom hated cleaning, which was surprising but obvious at the same time.

In the fight between words and images, it's unusual for the commentary to grab so much attention, so it was a shame the words didn't always add much. But how clever to describe the street-sweeper's glass-sided vehicle as a "bathysphere" in the opening minutes. As the sweeper steered his craft along Newcastle's city precincts, catch-ing strange nocturnal street-life in his lights, the image was absolutely perfect, and the best thing of the

But cheap, banal, pointless -

6.00am Business Breakfast (95319) 7.00 BBC Breakdast News (1) (90777) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (8351067) 9.20 Style Challenge (3872932) 9.45 Kilroy (2400680)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (42067) 17.00 News (I) Regional News and weather (4950715)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (9493408) 15.35 Change That (6817680) 12.00 News (1) Regional News and weather

12.05pm Call My Blutt Panel game, hosted by Bob Holness (5279512)

12.35 Good Living (9000883) 1,00 News (T) and weather (6226883) 1.35 Regional News (50655086) 1,45 The Weather Show (39138574)

1.50 Neighbours (22074970) 2.10 Quincy Quincy comes to the aid of an old Congressman friend accused of murder (7964390)

3.00 As Time Goes By (1) (5749)

3.30 Playdaya (6315593) 3.50 Postmen Pet (6483999) 4.05 Pingu (9300715) 4.10 Bananaman (8545319) 4.15 Rugrats (8480574) 4.35 The Mask (7737883) 5.00 Newsround, Current attains for younger viewers.(1) (5488932)

5.10 No. Sweet New classroom drama for children. Teenager Jimmy moves with his lamily to Brighton (9132113)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (800203) 6.00 News (T) and weather (70) 6,30 Regional News (22)

7,00 Watchdog Consumer Issues, presented by Anne Robinson and Alica Beer (5626) 7,30 EastEnders Titlany, Grant and Tony attend the clinic for bloodtests that will identify baby Courtney's father. Serah

struggles to cope with the aftermath of recent events and Tony receives promising riews (1) (26) 8.00 Animal Hospital Roll Hems presents an update on the progress of past patients. including Holly the growling puppy and Jasper, a cat run over by a cer (1948 8.30 A Perfect State Malcolm takes on the

deunting task of maintaining law and order in Flatby when he becomes the new Chief of Police (3883)

9:00 News (T) and weather (9777) 10.00 Dame Edna's Work Experience The housewife magastar meets the little people of Britain, at a baked-bean factory

10:40 Question Time in the first of the hustings programmes, David Dimbleby is joined by, among others, the MPs Alex Salmond and Dafydd Wigley (T) (828;16)

11.40 The Mrs Merton Show With Joanna Lumley and Martin Clunes (T) (972864) 12.10 am That's Carry On (1978) Kenneth Carry Williams and Barbara Windsor reminisce Williams and baroard villearrances from about the series, with appearances from Carry On regulars Charles Hawtrey, Sid James, Hattie Jacques, Bernard Bresslaw, Joan Sims, Jim Dale and others (420365)

1.45 Weather (5519568)

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and Video Programmer are tradements of
Gernstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6,00am Open University: Is Seeing Believing? (2657593) 6.25 Organelles and Origins (2676628) 6.50 Enzymes (7077965) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8451406) 7.30 Secret Life of Toys (2936241) 7.45 The Raccoons (4530116) 8.10 Wacky Races (3428390) 8.35 Blue B-10 Wacky habes (3426390) 8.35 Blue Peter (3547932) 9.05 Activ-8 (9824721) 9.35 Sweet Valley High (7458661) 9.55 Funnybones (2529864) 10.10 Teletubbies (1720680) 10.35 Babar

(3093203) 11.00 Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (6425113) 11.45 Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (7127609) 12.30pm Working Lunch (51203) 1.00 Secret (22876680) 1.25 Alias Smith and Jones

(2783864) 2.15 Racing from Aintree and Dubai (24862244) 4.55 Esther (9111661) 5.30 Today's the Day (99) 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1)

6.45 Quantum Loap (1) (T) (893970) 7.30 Politicians on Parade The eight MPs leam about the varied responsibilities and pressures faced by the Armed Forces as they go out on deployment with the military (2/2) (48) Followed by Video

Nation Election Shorts 8.00 Ken Hom's Hot Wok Ken cooks for hungry firefighters in York and husband-and-wife acting duo Timothy West and Prunetla Scales. Back home in California he meets novelist Arry Tan, and demonstrates how to use the wok on a barbecue (r) (T) WALES: 8.00-8.30 Deadness of Dad (2390)

8.30 Top Gear Michele Newman reports on the new Seat Arosa; and Steve Berry takes part in the 60th annual Epsom-to Brighton motorcycle rally (T) (1425)

9.00 Snooker: The Crucible - 21 Years in the Frame David Vine presents a series chronicling events at the spiritual home of world snooker in Sheffield, beginning with a look back to the late 1970s and early 1980s (1/3) (F) (3767) - -- ·



inventive deaf children (9.30pm)

9.30 New Language Insight into how a remarkable new sign-language has been developed by a group of deal youngsters (1) (780135)

10.20 Trade Secrets (607425) Followed by Video Nation Shorts (981999) 10.30 Newsnight presented by Peter Snow (T)

11.30 Late Review Michael Dibdin takes a look at Fever Pitch (397154)

12.10 am Animated 2 (5535926) 12.25 Weather (3567839)

12.30 Learning Zone: O.U.: (31433) 1.00 Third Revolution (45297) 1.30 Whipped Into Action (51346) 2.00 Language Season (38655) 4.00 Languages (94655) Steps to Bett (32471)

6.00am GMTV (6958628) 9.25 Chain Letters (3880951) 9.55 Regional News (T) (2919338) 10.00 The Time, the Place (72883) 10.30 This Morning (T) (61379999) 12.20pm Regional News (T) (4633067)

12,30 News (T) (9096680) 12.55 Shortland Street (9011999) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (64473574) 1.50 Alternoon Live (14931244) 2.20 Vanessa (79558099) 2.50 Afternoon Liva (5279970)

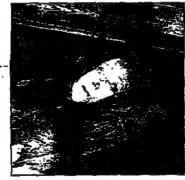
3.20 News (T) (7921970) 3.25 Regional News

(1) (7920241)
3,30 The Riddlers (r) (6467951) 3,40 Wizadora (9025406) 3,50 Rupert (r) (6311777) 4,15 Mike and Angelo (r) (8499222) 4,40 Sweat (8542222) 5.10 A Country Practice (1853951) 5.40 News (T) and weather (976339)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (827406) 6.25 HTV Weather (736715) 8.30 HTV News (T) (90) 7.00 Emmerdale Vic discovers the truth about Terry's night out with Helen (T) (3336)

7.30 3-D Julia Somerville asks why police chiefs seem to turn a blind eye to some crooks to capture others (1) (74) 8.00 The Bill: A Hard Rain Boulton and Croft discover that rivalry between drug dealers has tradic consequences for one of their more valuable customers (T) (6118)

8.30 Police, Camera Action Alaslair Ste narrates a high-speed race against time to transport a liver for a life-saving busiest streets (r) (T) (8951)



Sylvia Syms in a watery grave (9.00)

9.00 PD James: Original Sin (3/3) Di Daniel Aron comes up with an important lead into the gruesome murders. With Roy Marsden and Sylvia Syms (T) (4845) 19.00 News (T) and weather (29118)

10.30 Regional News (T) (546203) 10.40 Crimestoppers Special (900816) 11.10 Gregory's Girl (1981) with John Gordon-Sinclair, Dee Hepburn and Clare Grogan.
Witty romentic drama capturing the trials and tribulations of growing up in urban Scotland, centering on the relationship

between a young man who is dropped from school football team and his replacement — a curvaceous dirl. Directed by Bili Forsyth (191222) 12.35am in Bed with MeDinner (3546346)

1.05 Funny Business (4076520) 1.40 cyber cafe (6572926) 2.10 Stand and Deliver (r) (5365094) 3.05 3-D (r) (7) (75641568) 3.35 The Good Sex Guide Late (r) (2003758)

4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (20988)

5.00 Garden Calendar (1) (99520)

5.30 News (82655)

As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9011999) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1853951) 6.25 Central News (835425) 10.40 Crime Stalker (646512) 11.40 Do I Not Like That! (589048)

12.40am Bagdad Cafe (6626907) 1.40 Ed's Night Party (3309452) 2.05 Club Nation (5368181)

3.00 Access All Areas (25487) 3.30 Stand and Deliver (2004487) 4.25 Central Jobfinder '97 (4390278) 5.20 Asian Eye (2636891)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except 12.55 Home and Away (2308222) 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (70070222) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1853951) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (63048) 10.40 Film: Conan the Destroyer (16882680)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1853951) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (38) 6,30-7.00 Grass Roots (90) 10.40 Film: Conen the Destroyer (16882680) 5.00am Freescreen (99520)

ANGLIA As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9011999) 5,10 Shortland Street (1853951) 6.25 Anglia News (835425) 6,55-7.00 What's On (774135) 10,40 Film: Conen the Destroyer (16808628)

12.30em in Bed with Me Dinner (5182742) **SE** Starts:

7.00 The Big Breakfast (16715) 9.00 Bewitched (39593) 9.30 Sister Sister (8933357) 9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (7454845)

10.20 Crystal Maze (7751116) 11.20 Earthworm Jhn (4921661) 11,45 The Pink Penther (6453864) 12.00 Fresh Pop (4610593) 12.05em California Dreams (9705845) 12.30 Australia Wiki (88999)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (59590898) 1.15 Derl Deg (68045703) 1,30 Film: South of Alglers (53825661)

3.10 Book (8634131) 3.30 Ricki Lake (96) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (13)

4.30 An Inspector Calls (15) 5.00 5 Pump (8574) 5.30 Countdown (67)

6.00 Newyddion (441135) 6.05 Heno (838512) 6.35 Bob Yn Ddau (710777) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (931593) 7.25 Pwy 'DI Pwy? (213970)

8.00 Pam Fi Duw? (7086)

8.30 Newyddion (6593) 9.00 Family Money (9263390) 10.05 Film: Edward Scissorhands (598280) 12.05am-12.50 Dispatches (6112346)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street The guest is Tracey Ullman (11357) 7.00 The Big Breaklast (16715) 9.00 Bewitched (r) (f) (39593) 9.30 Sister Sister (r) (8933357) 9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (f) (7454845) 10.20 The Crystal Maze (r) (7751116) 11.20 Earthworm Jim (r) (4921681) 11.45 The Pink Panther (6453864)

12.00 Fresh Pop (4610593) 12.05om California Dreama (r) (9705845) 12.30 Light Lunch (72425) 1.30 The Three

Stooges (b/w) in Uncivil War Birds (98731406) 1.55 Death Drums Along the River (1963)
starring Richard Toold. A thriller, based on
Sanders of the River, in which police

Inspector Sanders investigates diamond smuggling, murder and intrigue in remote Africa. Directed by Lawrence Huntingdon (T) (42138999) 3.36 Collectors' Lat (T) (96) 4.00 Fitteen-to-One (T) (13) 4.30 Countdown (T) (15) 5.00 Rickl Lake (T) (8574) 5.30 The Real

Holiday Show (r) (1) (67) 6.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper American campus comedy (T) (80)

6.38 Hollyceks Teen scap (T) (32) 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (689864) 7.50 Thatcher's Children (630512)

8.00 Mad About Machines: My Life with Dennis Malcolm Hemley's love affair with Dennis lawnmowers (2/6) (1) (7085)

8.30 A Cook on the Wild Side Hugh Feamley-Whitingstell concludes his exploration of Britain's wild spring larder (1) (6583) 9.00 Dispatches Journalist Andrew Merr

presents a revealing account about what went on behind the scenes at the last general election (T) (122970) 9.46 The Long Johns Election Specials The first of three conversations in which John

Bird and John Fortune take a satirica look at the general election (466845 10.00 Jo Brand Through the Cakehola Comedy series (r) (1) (487795)



Rob Morrow is Dr Fleishman (10.35)

10.35 Northern Exposure The return of the off-beat Alaskaset comedy (T) (624390)

11.30 The Stephen Lawrence Story How the family of the teenager stabbed to death tought to bring his killers to justice (r) 12.35am The Bay Boy (1984) starring Klefer Sutherland and Liv Ullmann. A rites of passage story of a teamon human.

Nova Scotia in 1937. Directed by Daniel Petrie (106618) 2.25 A House for Pele A documentary about 20-year-old Copacabana street dweller

3,25-Schools (748618) 5.25 Backdate (r) (T) (7225385)

(r) (5375471)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News Early (7180048) 7.30 Havakazoo Magazine for pre-school children (2200406)

8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patro Children's drama series (2828135) 8.30 Wideworld: History in the Making investigating local history (2827406)

9.00 Expresso Magazine show leaturing advice on consumer issues (5827357) 10,00 Exclusive Entertainment news with Jonathan Coleman and Julia Bradbury

(6135406) 10.30 The Great Garden Game A mixture of game show and gardening tips from Bowood in Wiltshire (2830970)

11.00 Lesza: Missing — a Parent's Worst Nightmare Discussion with Lesza Gibbons (9067154)

11.50 Espresso Update (45631999) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful James guizzes Connor over his love life (2821222)

12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9712338) 1.00 5 News Update (92735574) 1.05 Sunset Beach Michael saves the life of



The 5's Company gang (2.00pm)

2.00 5's Company Live entertainment show (3570113) 3.30 Battling for Baby (1991) with Suzanne Pleshette and Deoble Reynloids. A young couple find themselves caught between

their mothers when they have a baby

5.20 5's Company Update (14695883) 5.30 100 Per Cent Game show (1777241)

6.00 Whittle Quiz (1774154) 6.30 Family Affairs A shock lies in wait for Duncan (1765408)

7.00 Exclusive Entertainment news (1675390) 7.30 Serengeti Seferi Hunting dogs of the African plains (1754390)

8.00 Nency Lam Oriental cooking made simple with Nancy Lam (1) (1691338)

8,30 5 News (1670845) 9.00 Memoirs of an Invisible Man (1992) Espionage comedy with Chew Chase who becomes the larget of crooked CIA agents when he is rendered invisible by a (32302357)

10.50 Exclusive Extra (5582574) 11.00 The Jack Decharty Show (7642749) 11.40 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment Comedy panel game leabing Graham Norton, Lee Hurst and

Fred MacAulay with guests Tim Vine and Paul Thorna (2972512) 12.10am Live and Dangerous Late night 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6824013)

5.30 100 Per Cent (5702094)

• For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

\$ 10 m

THE P. S. ADMERTIE

7.00pms Superboy (4912609) 7.30 Sepanboy (3655406) 8.00 Sides (1037222) 9.00 Highlander (1057086) 10.00 Tek Wer (1027845) 11.00 Lata Show (6542067)

the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

8.00en The Lias Boye Tell (1984) 8.3067) 2.30 All Hends on Deck (1961) 7:18048(5) 8.10 Ernest Hemingsay's Adventures of a Young Man (1962) 33289628) 71.35 Mighty Morphin Power Banges (1986) (52585357) 1.15pm Chambate (1967) (2163683) 3.00 Kid Castined (1967) (2163683) 3.00 Kid Cashad (1967) (21639863) 3.00 Ald Cashad (1962) (17203) 5.00 Rudy (1992) (70864) 7.00 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (1995) (54999) 9.00 Nine Months. (1995) (94789116) 10.45 The Months. (1995) (94789116) 10.45 The Months (1994) (538845) 12.55 m Mr Jones (1994) (538845) 12.55 m Mr Jones (1994) (220821) 2.55 The Fought

6.00cm Carnivel in Costs Rics (1947) 67043; 6.00 High Rise Donkey (1980) 1863(3) 9.00 The Flying Screens (1974)

SKY MOVIES

Jones (1983) (2087) 2.55 She Fought Alone (1985) (743455) 4.25 Kid Galahad (1983) [451500] THE MOVIE CHANNEL

(81628) 10.00 Semson and Selly (1985) (8553067) 11.10 Who Done It? (1942) (518038) 12.30pm Midnight Runaround (1984) (21154) 2.00 Herry Steck and the Tiger (1988) (53086) 4.00 High Risa Donkey (1989) (81999) 5.00 The Trying Sorcentr (1974) (8599) 6.00 A Mother's Sorcentr (1995) (42694883) 7.40 US Top 10 (746512) 8.00 Muriel's Wedding (1994) (5906) 10.00 Wattl Eap (1994) (746512) 8.000 Numers or working (1994) (50067) 10.000 Wyatt Earp (1994) (30062222) 1.10sen The Pamels Principle B (1994) (66576) 2.55 Johnny Be Gott (1989) (333507) 4.30 Midnight Paut-around (1994) (10617)

8.00pm North to Aimsic (1968) (8834390) 8.00 Big (1988) (8846135) 10.00 The Great Escape (1963) (22357828) 12.55mm The Blue Legoon (1980) (3911237) 2.40 A Day at the Races (1937) (1966) (7387094)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

9.00pm The Portrait (1993) (65008405) 11.00 Merione (1969) (71755154) 12.40em Cimmeron (1960) (52238617) 3.10-5.00 The Portrait (1983) (47118346) SKY SPORTS 1

7.00em Sports Centre (87241) 7.30 Short 7.00em Sports Centre (8.7241) 7.30 Shorgun Challenge (22970) 8.30 Racing News (90241) 9.00 Sports Centre (81539) 9.30 Asrobias Oz Style (74195) 10.00 Formuts Three Recing (82932) 11.00 Golf Megazine (8283) 11.30 Futbol Mundal (63512) 12.00 Aerobias Oz Style (10947) 12.80per World of Super Leagus (78628) 2.00 Rugby Union (7832) 4.00 Formuta Three Recing (53136) 4.59 Sports Centre (1153319) 5.00 Superstars (9947) 6.00 Sports Centre (3319) 9.30 Netbusers (7999) 7.00 Snoother British Open — Live (730512) 10.00 Sports Centre (60406) 10.30 Tight Lines (3857) 11.30 Trans World Sport (51661) 10.20 Tight Lines (3857) 11.30 Trans World Sport (51661) 10.20 (3839) 11.60 (1961) 12.38am Sports Centre (3839) 1.00 Netbusters (99655) 1.30 Trans World Sport (39278) 2.30-3.00 Sports Centre (46636)

SKY SPORTS 2 8.00pm Tight Lines (4351777) 9.00 Span-ish Football (4354864) 11.00 Football Screpbook (9971999) 12.30em-1.00 Second innings (6764146)

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 Snooker, British Open — Live (45327067) 6,00pm Futbol Mundisi (21661628) 5.30 Beach Volleyball (55798425) 6.30 Skill Saling (42798203) 7.00 Sports Centre (21641864) 7.30 Foot-ball League Review (55794609) 9.00 Gott Maderra Island Open (69018241) 10.00-11.30 Golf Extra (79356067)

EUROSPORT 7.30mm Motors (86554) 9.00 All Sports (8832) 10.00 Fun Sports (87628) 11.00 Fortbal (80280) 1,00pm Cross-Country Sking (28512) 2.00 Strysuring (2339) 2.30 Triethlon (70777) 3.30 All Sports (3645) 4.30 Freedrid (2627) 8.00 Footbal (77390) 7.00 Fun Sports (75845) A.00 Footbal (77390) 7.00 Fun Sports (75845) 8.00 Football (736796) 11.00 Freende (98357) 12.00-12.30em Backetball (87364) UK GOLD

7.00cm Tellyslack, (1755338) 7.35 Neighbours (5326715) 8.00 Crossroads (3324932) 8.25 EastEnders (6765154) 9.00 The Bit (2186854) 9.30 Don't Wat Up (8004375) 10.00 Never the Twen (4407048) 10.30 The Suffixers (2481408) 11.00 Juled Bravo (4354932) 12.00 Crossroads (6766888) 12.30pm Neighbours (4404311) 1.00 EastEnders (8755951) 1.35 No Place Hall Memory (8765900) 2.10 A Little Bit of Live Home (5065690) 2.10 A Little Bit of Emery (93445196) 2.20 Three Up. Two Down (8641425) 2.55 'Allo 'Allo! (7380280) 3.30 The Bill (2477135) 4.00 All Creatures Great and Smatl (5231651) 5.00 Generation Game (30349154) 6.05 EastEnders (4153574) 6.40 Are You Being Served's (1088406) 7.20 Russ Abbot (4238135) 7.50 Bulseye (6367609) 8.20 In Sickness and in Haelth (8391067) 9.00 The 88 (5237845) 9.36 The Equation (9562222) 10.36 Bottom (700066) 11.10 The Young Ones (9028574) 11.55 Alexen Sayle's Stuff (4996852) 12.25mm The Best of Top of the

2.30 Shopping at Night (8902029) GRANADA PLUS 6.00am The Krypton Factor (5977057) 6.30 Once Upon a Time (23778338) 8.45 h's Fun to Read (79852425) 7.00 Alphabet Zoo (9685674) 7.15 Once Upon a Time 7.50 Josie Smith (3642864) 8.00 Coronation Street (5014796) 8.30 Families (5013067) 9.00 The Protessionals (5966715) 10.00 Second Thoughts (2830154) 10.30 Two's Company (5093203) 11.00 Within These Walts (4344970) 12.00 Classic Coronation Street (5017883) 12.30pm Families (6867319) 1.00 Albion Market (4355086) 1.30 The



Biji Hunter and Toni Collette (Movie Channel, 8.00pm)

Good Life Guide (6859390) 2.00 Drusti-monds (2831883) 3.00 Upstars. Down-slars (3526154) 4.00 The Doctor Sense 97852821 4.30 Second Thoughts (3386226) 5.00 The Protessionals (5171609) 6.00 Families (8536829) 6.30 Classic Coronation Street (8336721) 7.00 Company (2936785) 8.00 Upslats. Down-stars (2467593) 9.00 Classic Coronation Street (3501845) 9.30 The Cornections (70883) 10,00-11,00 The Professionals

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Big Garage 8.15 Muppet Babies (7018203) 8.40 The Care Boars (1585626) 7.05 Enchanted Tales (6738970) 7.95 The Little Mermaid (1632951) 8.20 Aladdin (333) 13 dec diagnesis (673) 13 dec diagnesis (673) 15 dec diagnesis (740) 15 dec diagnesis (740) 16 dec diagnesis (740) 16 dec diagnesis (740) 16 dec diagnesis (740) 16 dec diagnesis (741) 16 dec diagnesis (741) 16 dec (556135) 12.10pm Cuack Atlack (556135) 12.10pm Cuack Atlack (2485796) 12.40 Mouse Tracks (5295693) 1.18 Sick with Me Krd (163530) 2.07 FILS: The Christmas Bos (20715) 3.30 Tenon and Pumbas (1413796) 3.40 New Doug (7149357) 4.05 Gool

(7582226) 4.30 Quack Pack (9741048) 4.55 (756226) 4.30 (Jack Pack (9741046) 4.35 Aladdin (9753883) 5.20 Fissh Forward (4116425) 5.45 Timon and Pumbaa (181715) 6.00 Bone Chillers (1390) 6.30 Boy Meets World (5970) 7.00 Brotharly Love (4338) 7.30 Fitali: Just Like Ded (81086) 8.00 Daye's World (82661) 9.30-10.00 Golden Girls (74715)

FOX KIDS NETWORK 6,00cm Three Little Ghosis (1077319) 6,20

8,00em hrise Line Schools (107/379) o.su/ Inspector Gedget (7423715) 7.00 Samurai Ptzza Cats (6533319) 7.30 Eegle Riders (6545154) 8.00 Teerage Mutant Horo Turlies (8971319) 8.30 Masked Rider (898390) 9.00 Big Bad Beetleburgs (8987970) 9.30 Power Rangers Zeo (7336574) 10.00 Cesper (7414067) 10.30 Applicating (8981354) 41 (8) 4 mill (but high (but (7836574) 10.00 Cesper (7414067) 10.30 Ace Ventura (1983154) 11.00 Life with Louis (8523406) 11.30 The Tick (8524135) 12.00 Incredible Hulk (8974406) 12.30pm Monal Kombai (7630390) 1.00 Hightander (8525390) 1.30 Eagle Riders (7839661) 2.00 Teenage Mutani Hero Turtles (4901593) 2.30 Mashad Fider (3577241) 3.00 Big Bad Beetieborgs (480038) 3.30 Power Rangers Zeo (3688086) 4.00 Casper (366835) 4.30 Ace Ventura (3664777) 3.00 Spiderman (4982845) 5.30 Goosebumps (3668357) 6.00-7.00 Sweet Valley High

8.00mm Road to Avonies (24883) 7.00 Dennis the Menace (71864) 8.00 Satman (37796) 8.30 Art Attack (36067) 9.00 Flash Gordon (27319) 9.39 Bobby's World Gordon (27319) 9,39 Booby's Wond (93609) 10,00 Romusld the Reindeer (42203) 10,30 Robinson Sucroe (16203) 11,00 Danger Mouse (16909) 11,30 Gravedale High (16628) 12,00 C-car's Orchestra (20683) 12,00 C-car's Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (67425) 1,00 By the Way of the Stass (61680) 1,30 Black Beauty (66796) 2,30 Cosen Colyssey (400) 2,00 the female (5203) 2,30 Septiment тототом (8796) 2.30 Осеан Офузеку (3195) 3.00 Ari Attack (5203) 3.30 Flash Gordon (8580) 4.00 Велман (7715) 4.30-5.00 The Big Dish (3999) CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop partoons from 5.00mm to 9.00pm NICKELODEON

6.00em Attant Hero Turties (25086) 8.30 Court Ductula (54425) 7.00 Captain Smean (85883) 7.30 Tales from the Crypthesper (64390) 8.00 Bruno the Kid (99512) 8.30 Hery Amoldi (8883) 9.00 Rugrats (89135) 9.30 Rugrats (32715) 10.00 Asaith! Real Monsters (45777) 10.30 Doug (85319) 11.00 Rocko's Modern Life (90425) 11.30 Balley Kipper's Port of View (61154) 12.00 Kenan and Kel (10925) 12.30pm The Scenet World of Alex Mack (74113) 1.00 Sister Sister (84154) 1.30 Moesha (24654) 2.00 Round the Twist (8512) 2.30 The Adventures of Pete and (8319) (8512) 2.30 The Abertules in trans and Peta (3932) 3.00 Silickin' Around (4319) 3.30 Asahhi Real Monsters (5777) 4.00 Jumany (3954) 5.30 Jumany (3795) 5.00 Jumany (8854) 5.30 Jumany (4048) 6.00 Press Gang (4661) 6.30-7.00 Doug (8241)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreek High (7454636) 1.00pm Madison (4350116) 1.30 Sweet Vellay High (755220) 2.00 Hangume (3895574) 2.30 California Dreams (2490089) 3.00 Bylier Grove (3814609) 3.30 9-2-5 (2482203) 4.00 Carove (30) recurs 3300 9-2-0 (2402203) 4.00 Sweet Valley High (2481338) 4.30 Hangame (2470222) 5.00 Saved by the Bell (3819154) 5.30 Catilomia Dreems (2461574) 6.00 Byker Grove (2491715) 5.30 Madison (2482087) 7.00-8.00 Heartbreak High (9762512)

BRAVO

The Burning Zone (9768796) 10.00 Tour of Duty (9761883) 11.00 Fil.M; Borderline (9915114) 1.00mm The Burning Zone (4485988) 2.00 Tour of Duty (9470297) 3.00 PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Enlertamment UK (9628) 7.30 Rossanna (4425) 8.00 Rossanna (5048) 8.30 Monty Python (7883) 9.00 Cheers (46661) 9.30 Ten (23067) 10.00 Garry Shanding (50488) 10.30 Frasser (86048) 11.00 We Know Where You Live (52408) 11.30 Monty Python (34681) 12.00 Nurses (43758) 12.30em Soep (24181) 1.00 Chesrs (97297) 1.30 Tato (60966) 2.00 Ertenalment UK (58471) 2.39 We Know Where You Live (44278) 3.00 Fresier (77433) 3.30-4.00 Garry Shending's

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL 1.90em The Twilight Zone (1036029) 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected (3660075) 2.00 100 Years of Horror (5751278) 2.30 Night

HOME & LEISURE 9.00mm The Joy of Painting (4986636) 9.30 Grow with Joe (2723947) 10.00 Stars and Gerdens (4498390) 10.30 Cur House (4291488) 11.00 The Painted House (4251499) 17.00 ine Painsu Indoor (524851) 11.30 The Old House (5249680) 12.00 Yan Cen Cook (4081290) 12.30pm Graham Kerr (6204393) 1,00 Today's Gournet (4356390) 1.30 Home Again (7654834) 2.00 Hometime (3804048) 2.30 Fumnure to Go (2463932) 3.00 Two's Furniture to Go (2463932) 3.00 Two Country (3610683) 3.30 This Old House DISCOVERY

4.00pm Fishing Adventures (2487512) 4.30 Bush Tucker Man (2483796) 5.00 Treasure Humers (3822638) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (2474048) 6.00 Wild Things (5654654) 7.00 Invention (3802664) 7.30 Wonders of Weather (2484425) 8.00 Dangerous Seas (3251408) 9.00 Ton Members (5288715) (9751405) 9.00 Top Marques (5268715) 9.30 Firefighters (6109749) 10.00 Justice Files (9774357) 11.00 Best of British (4373087) 12.00 Cassic Wheels (7644125) 1.00am Top Marques (1171471) 1.30-2.00 The Extremets (3978556)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL 4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (1843241) 5.00 Secret Service (7853951) 6.00 Four Years of Thunder (5496816) 7.00-8.00 Biography: Martin Luther King (4375357) CHALLENGE TV

Win with Prize Time twice an frour 5.05pm Blockbusters (8884113) 5.55 Family Fortunes (719512) 6.30 Catchphrase (898227, 7.65 Saie di the Century (776889) 7.48 Give Us A Cure (517203) 8.20 All Clued Up (612241) 9.00 Through the Keyhole (860086) 9.35 Busman's Holiday (855715) 10.05 Treasure Hurt (306222) 11.20 Love at First Sight (195283) 12.00 Sale of the Century (85704) 12.30am Hart to Hert (47891) 1.30 Microliganiay (79870) 2.30 Christy (41926) 3.30 All Together Now (73704) 4.00-5.00 The Fell Guy (94617)

UK LIVING

8.00mm Tiny Living (9581262) 9.00 Gledrage and Glemour (8527067) 9.15 Gordon Elliolt (6967406) 10.05 Jerry Springer (782683) 11.00 The Young and the Restless [6162135) 11.50 Brookside Springer (rocess) 1.300 The Young Springer (rocess) 1.301 The Heat Springer (rocess) 1.301 The Heat Is On (9887425) 3.00 Live at Three (26487951) [9897425] 3.00 Live at Three (26497851) 4.05 Jenry Springer (9274390) 5.05 Lingo (78061319) 5.30 Lucky Ladders (9891241) 8.00 | Dream of Jeanne (3849832) 6.35 Hearts After (1273512) 7.35 Brookside (2889067) 6.05 Rotonda (5796357) 9.00 FR.Mit Heart of a Child (6843048) 11.00-12.00 The Sex Files

7.00am Jazgran 7.30 Election Special 8.00 ZFE Calling 8.30 Business Updale 9.00 Hasya Tena Gher Vasya 9.30 Campus 10.00 Seneel 11.00 Aashiene 11.30 Ras Berse 12.80 Dastean 12.30cm Dhoop Aur Barse 12,90 Destaan 12,30pm Dhoop Aur Chaon 1,80 Fillift: Elessen 4,10 ZEE Top 10 5.10 Woram Aur Beetal 6,00 Sony Med Lony 6,30 ZEE and You 7,00 Euro Zindeol 7,30 Election Special 8,00 News 8,35 Andaz 9,05 Jeal 9,30 Hastelein 10,00 Commander 10,30 Song Yasira 11,00 Zee Horror Show 11,30-12,00 Antekshan

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CRICKET 49

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SP()KT

BRYANT'S EYE 50 Marathon Man still running through the pain barrier



THURSDAY APRIL 3 1997

Leicester lock joins select band after being chosen to captain tour to South Africa

Johnson named as Lions' main man about in the

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN JOHNSON WILL lead the first professional British Isles rugby union party in South Africa this summer. Johnson, only the fourth Englishman to achieve this signal honour, was named yesterday ahead of five other players who have captained their countries and three more who failed to win selection.

It is a tribute to the Leicester lock, one of six players from his club named by the Lions, which equals the record established by London Welsh in 1971, although the Exiles added a seventh during their visit to New Zealand that year. The choice also reflects. however. the belief among the tour management that the captain must be a man close to the heart of the action in what will be a physically demanding 13-match trip.

Fran Cotton, the tour manager, played under the leadership of another lock, Willie-John McBride, for the unbeaten Lions of 1974 in South Africa and, curiously, all the other Englishmen to have led the Lions also had experience at lock: Ronnie Cove-Smith in 1924, Doug Prentice - like Johnson a Leicester player - in 1930 and Bill Beaumont in 1980.

"It's a massive challenge for all the players and the management." Johnson, 27, said. "1 hope we can develop a good

BRITISH ISLES TOUR PARTY

FULL BACKS: N R Jenkins (Pontypridid and Wates) Age 25; Caps 50; Height 5tt 10m, Weight 13ct 5tb T G R Stimpson (Newcastle and England) 23; 5; 6tt 3in; 15st 7tb. WINGS: N D Beal (Northampton and England) 26, 1; 6ft 2n, 13st 8tb; J Bentley (Newcastle and England) 30; 2; 6ft; 15st 7lb I C Evans (Llanelli and Wales) 33, 71; 5ft 10in, 13st 3tb T Underwood (Newcastle and England) 28, 25; 6ft 9in; 13st 7fb, CENTRES: A G Bateman (Financia and Wales) 32: 9, 5ft 9in, 13st 1 S Gibbs (Swansea and Wales) 26: 27: 5ft 10m, 15st 7b; W J H Greenwood (Leicester) 24: 0, 6ft 5m; 13st J C Guscott (Bath and England) 31; 48, 6ft 1m; 13st 9b, A V Tait (Newcastle and Scotland) 32: 10, 6ft; 14st.

STAND-OFF HALVES: G P J Townsend (Northampton and Scotland) 23, 25; 6ft; 13st 12fb P J Grayson (Northampton and England) 25; 8, 6ft; 12st 10fb. SCRUM HALVES: M.J.S. Dawson (Northampton and England) 24, 5, 5ft 11vr; 13st. A Healey (Laicester and England) 23; 2, 5ft 10kr; 13st 7ib R Howley (Cardiff and Wates) 26, 16; 5ft 9kr; 13st.

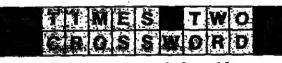
PROPS: P M Clohessy (Queenstand and Iteland) 31; 16, 5lf 11nr; 16st J Leonard (Harlequars and England) 28, 55; 5ft fürr; 17st 7b G C Rowntree (Leicester and England) 25; 14; 6lft 17st 7lb T J Smith (Mateonians and Scotland) 25, 3, 5lf 9n, 17st 4b, D Young (Cardill and Wales) 29; 21, 6lf, 18st 7lb

HOOKERS: M. P. Regan (Bristo) and England) 25, 13; 5ft 11in; 16st. B. Williams (Neath and Wales) 23, 1; 5ft 11in, 15st 7lb. K.G.M. Wood (Harlequins and Ireland) 25; 9, 6ft; 16st 5fb

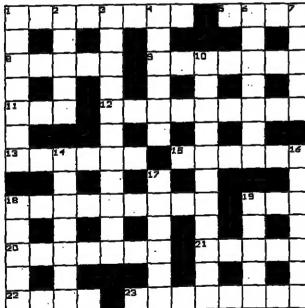
LOCKS: J W Devideon (London Insh and Ineland) 22: 12, 6th 6in; 17st 3lb M O Johnson (Lencester and England, captain) 27: 30: 6th 7in, 18st 2lb. S D Shaw (Bristo) and England) 23, 6; 6th 9in; 20st. G W Weir (Newcastle and Scotland) 26: 46; 6th 6in; 17st 4lb

BACK-ROW FORWARDS: N A Back (Leicester and England) 28; 5; 5/t 10m; 14st 8b L B N Dellaglio (Wasps and England) 24; 11; 6tt 4m; 16st 7b, R A Hill (Seracens and England) 25; 4; 6tt 3m; 15st 13b, E R P Miller (Leicester and teland) 21; 4; 6tt 3m; 15st 7b, I S Quinnell (Richmond and Wales) 24; 14; 6tt 4m; 19st 4b, T A K Rodber (Northempton/Army and England) 27; 31, 6tt 6m; 18st R I Weinwright (Watsonians/Army and Scotland) 32; 28; 6tt 4m; 15st 7b

MANAGER: F Cotton, COACHES: I McGeschan, J Teller, A Kesst, D Aired, FITNESS: D McLean, MEDICAL: J Robson, K Murphy, R Wagrzyk.



No 1058 in association with **BRITISH MIDLAND**



ACROSS

Daffodils (8) Capital of Norway (4) 8 Filthy look; overbrightness

9 (Rocket) start to rise (4.3) 11 Tiny -. C. Carol cripple (3) 12 Riddle (9)

13 Join the forces (6) 15 Arms of the sea (6) 18 Health, vitality (4-5)

19 Poor -, Edgar's disguise (Lean) (3) 20 Localised speech (7) 21 Wall-painting (5)

23 Uneven (contest) (3-5)

22 Get clean (4)

Woman's bedwear (7) Kingdom (5)

Not to be forgiven (11) Unspeaking (6) Whip: one harassing (7) Foreign-aid charity (5) 10 Exciting activity (3.3.5) 14 Burns' Scottish 20 (7)

Tasted; took specimens (7) 17 Pay attention (6) 18 Victoria, the - at Windsor

(Kipling) (5) 19 Weary (5)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .

SOLUTION TO NO 1057

ACROSS: 5 Astronautics 8 Pebble 9 Recess 10 Only 12 De facto 14 Tabular 15 Cove 17 Wither 18 Afghan 20 Self-

DOWN: 1 Take for a ride 2 Stab 3 Gabriel 4 Staccaso 6 Over 7 Cost the earth 11 Laugh off 13 Warrior 16 Part

team spirit and the desire to win. There are guys in the squad who have captained their country and I'll rely on their advice and experience." They are leuan Evans. Rob Wainwright, Jason Leonard, Gregor Townsend and Keith Wood, an amalgam that should cover every permutation and offers a range of candidates for the important role of midweek captain. This will be more physical than the five nations." John-son said. He has mixed memories of South African opposi-

tion, since a punch from a Transvaal forward removed him from England's 1994 tour to the Republic. "Sides out there will try to physically intimidate us, in a fair way. and we have to be ready to stand up to that," he said, "but I don't think it will be a dirty tour, international rugby has changed in that respect." The 35-strong party contains 18 Englishmen, eight

from Wales, five Scots and four Irishmen, but includes two big surprises in Matthew Dawson, the Northampton scrum half, and Barry Wil-liams, the Neath hooker, while there is one uncapped player. Will Greenwood. Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, expects great things of Greenwood, the Leicester centre whose vision he admires, and of Eric Miller, the baby of the party at 21, who can play in all three back-row positions.

Dawson, overlooked by England this season, also spent three months sidelined by a knee ligament injury. though his qualities are clearly well known to McGeechan. the director of rugby at Northampton, who contribute five players to the tour. In this instance. McGeechan withdrew from the final decision to avoid accusations of bias,

which will be made anyway. Kyran Bracken, playing for Saracens, presented the strongest possible case for selection without appearing in the five nations' championship, but Dawson's talents fitted the playing template with which the Lions selectors have been armed all season. McGeechan did not want players of contrasting characteristics at scrum half, as was the case with Dewi Morris and Robert Jones in 1993, and so Dawson finds himself accompanying

Robert Howley and Austin Williams, 23 and capped



Cotton, the tour manager, believes his 35-strong squad has a "good balance". It includes two unexpected names in Dawson and Williams

Wales pecking order, behind Jonathan Humphreys and Garin Jenkins, and has been at odds with his club of late, but his handling ability and, specifically, his throwing in skills at the lineout won him a place ahead of Phil Greening, though Greening might sug-gest that Keith Wood is not the

Wood, like Scott Quinnell, sustains a family tradition since their respective fathers. Gordon and Derek, played for the 1959 and 1971 Lions. The Irishman, who has not played since dislocating a shoulder in

most accurate of throwers.

only once, against France last January, expects to be back in September, lies third in the action for Harlequins in another week and the Lions management will be anxious to see him achieve full match fitness before the party leaves on May 17.

The same will apply to Neil Jenkins, the Pontypridd standoff half picked to tour as a full back. Jenkins had a plate and eight screws inserted into a forearm last month after an injury against England. "It's improved a lot already after only a formight and I hope to get a game in beforehand," Jenkins said. Nor has McGeechan ruled him out of the No 10 jersey in South Africa.

ITINERARY

Bizabeth): 28 v Border (East on); 31 v Western Province (Cape), June; 4 v Mournálanga (South-Transvaal, Witbanki; 7 v Northern Harrevitat (Precina): 11 v Satureng Lord.
(Johannesburg): 14 v Natal (Durban):
17 v Emerging Springboks (Wellington):
21 v South Africa (Cope Town): 24 v Free
State (Bioemfontein): 28 v South Africa
(Durban): 5 v South Africa
(Wellsom): 5 v South Africa

That is the weakest area of the side. McGeechan will fervently hope that Townsend's indifferent season with Scotland has been the result of trying too hard for a mediocre

team, while Paul Grayson, his Northampton colleague, must build upon the wider game that he has hinted at with England. "We have a good balance in the party, good enough up front to put a platform in place and good enough in the back row and threequarters to play a game of pace and continuity," Cotton said. "We don't want a set-

piece battle, we want to destructure' the game." For all that, the Lions will be looking to their goalkickers. Jenkins and Grayson are acknowledged experts, but Dave Alred, the Bristol-based kicking coach, has been added to the management team to improve the skills of Tim Stimpson, Townsend and Nick Beal so that the Lions will be fully armoured as the tour 70**2**T.

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} (j-1)^{n-j} = 0$

17:2

Tax . . .

progresses. They will assemble next weekend in Edinburgh for a two-day briefing and the following weekend the management will decide the list of replacements on stand-by. Since each of the home unions is on tour this summer, matchfit substitutes will be readily to hand for a tour of which Cotton said last night: "This is only the beginning. Now the players must make sure they

Apology may not save Gould's job

ments to you or I can be OK

but to your brother or friend they might not be."

the 26-strong body of council-

lors of the Football Association

of Wales (FAW) appears to be

divided. Gould's contract is

due to expire in December and

the 2-1 defeat against Belgium

in Cardiff on Saturday, which effectively eliminated Wales

from the World Cup finals,

will not have enhanced his

The Blake incident has pos-

sibly tipped the balance fur-

ther. "I was shocked when I

heard about all this," one

FAW councillor, from the anti-Gould lobby, said yesterday.

If it is true, then it has to go

against him. I don't like rac-

Alun Evans, the former

chief executive of the FAW,

also cast doubt over Gould's

future. Writing in the Western

Mail, which is based in Car-

diff, Evans said yesterday: "I certainly don't believe Bobby

is a racist but, in my experi-

ence, he is a bully where he

thinks he has the upper hand,

as often betrays a man who

lacks true ability. That is a major weakness in dealing

with players at the top level."

nied the charge of racism, and

has said that he will again

select Blake for Wales if he is

playing well, but the issue is

likely to be discussed at the

FAW's next council meeting,

on April 16. Ken Tucker.

chairman of the FAW's senior

international committee, said:

"This has been blown up out

of all proportion. It was a

unanimous decision to ap-point Bobby and I still think

Gould has strenuously de-

ism at all, I abhor it."

chances of an extension.

However, opinion among

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BOBBY GOULD'S future as the manager of Wales still hangs in the balance despite attempts by the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) to settle the dispute between him and Nathan Blake, the Wales and Bolton Wanderers striker. Blake has accused Gould of making racist remarks and has said that he will not play for his country again while Gould remains in

Brendan Batson, the deputy chief executive of the PFA, has spoken with player and manager and said yesterday that



Gould: uncertain future

the issue had been resolved, if not forgotten. "Bobby rang me, which is to his credit, and has made a full apology to Nathan," Batson said. "Nathan has acknowledged that and what happens next is now up to them.

I'm sure there was no malice intended in Bobby's comments, but once he realised that it was perhaps insensitive, he did something about it. In an ideal world we shouldn't have remarks like this that can be misconstrued, but we're all different. Com-

Shearer in trim to make return

By Russell Kempson

ALAN SHEARER, the Newcastle United striker, should be available to captain England against Georgia when their World Cup qualifying campaign resumes at Wembley on April 30. Whether he will be fit to assist Newcastle's fading challenge in the FA Carling Premiership -- they next play Sunderland at St James' Park on Saturday - will be determined by the club's medical staff today and

tomorrow. Shearer, scorer of 23 goals this season, has missed Newcastle's past six matches after undergoing a third operation to repair damaged groin tis-sue. He trained yesterday for the first time and emerged

unscathed. "Everything seems to be going well," he said. "I've been shooting, crossing, heading, turning and twisting. I've had no ill effects so far and I reckon I'm now ready to rejoin the first team. I'll obviously be taking advice from the club physics about possibly returning against Sunderland, but I would be extremely disappointed if I was not ready for

the Georgia game." After training, Shearer travelled to London to take part in the announcement that Braun UK Ltd, the electric razor manufacturer, is to become an official sponsor of the World Cup finals in France next

Shearer, who will spearhead the firm's campaign, appeared fresh and relaxed, not particularly surprising considering the undisclosed. yet inevitably substantial, slice that he will receive of the £10 million package. Though coy about his finan-

was happy to extol the virtues of playing for England in the four-team tournament in France in June, which also involves the host country. Italy and Brazil. Many Premiership managers have spoken out against it, even threatening to withdraw their players from the England squad, because they feel that it should be a rest period.

cial remuneration. Shearer

"If I'm fit, I'll be going, and I wouldn't expect a problem from my club," Shearer said. "I would think everyone wants to play in it. I'm sure the



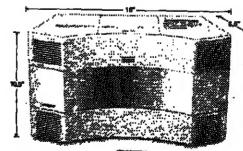
Shearer: back training

feeling I get playing for Eng-land is the same as other players and I don't see any reason why anyone should pull out, except through

The more football you play means that you're obviously being successful. That's what we're in football to be and I can't really see how you can moan about it. It would be nice to have a longer break but when you're 15 or 16 and just getting into the game, that's what you want to do - play

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